

Fitch Reunions

Family Reunion Newsletter

Fitch Reunions 1999 Newsletters

115 Years of Family Reunions

The Fitch family has a long and rich history. For the past 115 years, the Fitch family has been celebrating its heritage. The first Fitch family reunion was held in 1884 in the town of Fitch, Massachusetts. Since then, the family has held reunions every year, with the exception of a few years during the war years. The Fitch family has a long and rich history, and the reunions are a great way to celebrate it.

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Schedule of 1999 Reunion Events

June 1999

The Fitch family has a long and rich history, and the reunions are a great way to celebrate it. The Fitch family has a long and rich history, and the reunions are a great way to celebrate it. The Fitch family has a long and rich history, and the reunions are a great way to celebrate it.

September 1999

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October 1999

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November 1999

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December 1999

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Newsletters

Nathaniel & Sarah DeLong Fitch Family Reunion Newsletter

1999 Reunion Invitation

The eighty-eighth reunion of the
Nathaniel and Sarah DeLong Fitch Family
will be held July 16th, 17th and 18th, 1999,
in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

You and your family are urged to let
nothing prevent your attendance.

Our 1999 Reunion invitation is similar to that of the 1912 Reunion, except we have excluded the line "Conveyances will meet cars leaving Fort Wayne and Garrett at 9:30 a.m."

115 Years of Family Reunions

Few families can claim a tradition similar to ours. The first documented Fitch family reunion was in 1884 at the Fitch Homestead on Coldwater Road in Huntertown, Indiana. Starting in 1902, the reunions were held almost annually, until 1986 at descendants' homes, churches and parks in the Fort Wayne area. Reunions were not held in 1944 or 1945 due to gasoline rationing, which made it difficult, if not unpatriotic, to travel for non-essential purposes.

A small, largely local Fitch reunion was held in 1992 at Sharon and Alex Jokay's home in Auburn, Indiana. The last full-fledged, "you-all-come" reunion in 1994 drew 90 Fitch descendants to the Northside Park in Fort Wayne from all over the country.

The reunions were held on July 4th until 1954, when a weekend day, usually Sunday, became the day-of-choice. Families began gathering at the appointed location in mid-morning and shared a "basket dinner" at noon. During the afternoon, the children played games and explored, while the adults chatted with one another.

A formal reunion business meeting was always held, where births and deaths were reported and correspondence from those who could not attend was read. Family stories were told and recorded. The family treasurers reported on contributions to and uses of the Fitch Fund, which rarely had net assets of more than a few dollars. The purchase of ice cream was always an essential expenditure.

Minutes of these meetings were prepared by the family secretaries and are part of our family records.

Schedule of 1999 Reunion Events

Friday, July 17

7:00 -10:00 pm - An informal gathering in the Summit Room at the Courtyard Marriott. Family genealogy, photos, records, and memorabilia will be available. Drop by, have a cup of coffee, get acquainted with your kin, and prowl through 150 years of family history at your leisure.

Saturday, July 18 (More on page 2)

11:00 AM - Help set up for the Basket Dinner at River Lodge in Shoaff Park. All of the family genealogy, photos, etc. will be on display. Now and after dinner you can order copies of photos, documents and family trees.

12:00 noon - **The Basket Dinner**: A potluck meal with everyone contributing something.

1:00 pm - Group photos of the Fitch families.
(Wouldn't it be nice to have the "lost" Fitch flag as background for these photos?)

1:15 pm - A brief family business meeting.

1:45 - 4:00 pm - Chatting, stories, games for the kids.

Sunday, July 19

Brunch at a local restaurant or the Courtyard Marriott for anyone who hasn't had enough of their Fitch kin by now. We'll finalize these plans on Saturday.

Saturday, July 17, 1999

11:00 AM - 4:00 pm

Who's Invited: Anyone who is related to Nathaniel and Sarah DeLong Fitch by birth, adoption or marriage. This may be one of the last all-encompassing Fitch Family Reunions, so you should try to attend, even if you are not terribly interested in your Fitch past. Some descendant or relative of yours may someday ask you what you know about your ancestors. This will be a good time to gather that information and make contacts with Fitch kin.

Where: River Lodge at Shoaff Park, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

What: Basket Dinner at 12:00 noon

When I was young, we called this a potluck dinner. Every family brings a dish of food to share - meat, pasta, potatoes, beans, salad, vegetables, appetizers, dessert. Somehow, as Carolyn Davis once told me, it all works out so there is ample food with lots of variety, including kid-friendly foods. Relatives who are traveling some distance can purchase take-out or baked goods from local stores on Saturday morning.

The Reunion Committee will provide coffee, tea, lemonade & punch, paper plates & cups, eating utensils, napkins, condiments, and, of course, lots of ice cream dipped from 5 gallon containers (a Fitch reunion tradition).

Overnight Accommodations

Courtyard Marriott
1619 W. Washington Center Road
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46819

We have reserved a block of 15 rooms for the nights of July 16 and July 17 at the Courtyard Marriott, which is located near Shoaff Park. When you call to make a reservation, tell them that you are with the Fitch Family Reunion. With enough Fitch guests, the Summit Room will be provided without charge on Friday evening.

Rooms with 2 double beds are \$59 plus taxes.

The Courtyard serves a buffet breakfast daily and has numerous amenities: A quiet lounge, an exercise room, an indoor/outdoor pool and whirlpool, in-room coffee service, etc. Non-smoking rooms are available.

Transportation to Shoaff Park can be provided.

For hotel reservations at the Courtyard:

Call 1-800-321-2211 or 219-489-1500.

What Else:

Group Photos at 1:00 pm

Family Business Meeting @ 1:15 pm

At each reunion we recognize the eldest generations present and announce the births and deaths that have occurred since the last reunion. (THAT'S WHY WE NEED YOUR VITAL RECORDS UPDATED.) Correspondence from non-attendees will be read, and the future of our reunions and newsletter will be discussed. A treasurer's report on our reunion finances will be presented, and we will probably pass the hat. Before we close, we'll have a drawing for door prizes. (The children can be off playing in the park during and after this meeting.)

Chatting, Story-telling & Browsing Family Keepsakes

All of the old family photos and records, as well as some memorabilia, will be on-hand. We'll have a system in place so that you can order copies (at cost) of photos and documents. The family's vital records have been loaded into the PC software "Family Tree Maker", so printed family trees and diskette files will be available. Some back issues of our newsletters will also be available.

Tours of Fitch Landmarks - After 4:00 pm

Guided or self-guided tours will be available.

Cost: \$5.00 per adult; children are free.

What to Bring

Basket Dinner dish(es) with serving utensils (if possible)
Family photos, memorabilia, artifacts, clothes, etc.
Family stories and recollections
Outdoor games for children (balls, bats, croquet sets, etc.)
(or indoor games, if the weather is bad)

What to do if you can't come

1. Send your greetings and/or family news and recent photos of you and your family to Betty Fitch.
2. Send a financial contribution to support the Fitch Family Reunion activities to Betty Fitch. (This mailing will create a negative balance for the Fitch Fund.)

RSVP: Please reply by June 30 if you can attend.

Mrs. Betty Fitch 219-637-6401
14615 Auburn Road wfitch5413@aol.com
Fort Wayne, IN 46845



Subj:
Date: 6/2/99 11:28:05 AM Eastern Daylight Time
From: deck.aj@acd.net (deck's-alice and jerry)
wfit5413@aol.com

Betty-this is a response to the reunion for Alice Deck, Jerry Deck, Sarah Deck-Davis and her Daughter, Hannah Elizabeth. We are coming in a motor home and will park in the Hotel's lot (I "o.k.ed" it with them.) Sarah may or may not use a Hotel room. Helen Silha is coming with us with her grandson, David. They will have a room for sure. We are looking forward to it! Please issue me a quick response so I know you recieved this-thanks, Alice Fitch Deck

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<DIV>Betty-this is a response to the reunion for
Alice Deck, Jerry Deck, Sarah Deck-Davis and her Daughter, Hannah
Elizabeth. We are coming in a motor home and will park in the Hotel's lot
(I "o.k.ed " it with them.) Sarah may or may not use a Hotel
room. Helen Silha is coming w ith us w ith her grandson, David. They
will have a room for sure. </DIV>

<DIV>We are looking forw ard to
it Please issue me a quick response so I know you recieved this-thanks,

Alice Fitch Deck</DIV>

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Wed, 02 Jun 1999 11:28:05 -0400

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11:27:56 -0400

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Wed, 2 Jun 1999 11:23:18 -0400

Message-ID: <002801bead0c\$1033de00\$1f62cf00@oemcomputer>

From: "deck's-alice and jerry" <deck.aj@acd.net>

To: <wfit5413@aol.com>

Subject:

Date: Wed, 2 Jun 1999 11:24:52 -0400

MIME-Version: 1.0

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X-Priority: 3

X-MSMail-Priority: Normal

X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook Express 4.72.3110.5

X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V4.72.3110.3

Saturday, July 3, 1999
11:00 AM - 11:30 AM

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[Privacy Policy](#). Last updated: 3/22/1999

Subj: FITCH FAMILY REUNION
Date: 6/6/99 3:41:40 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: fancies@mnet.net (Ann Girard)
Reply-to: fancies@mnet.net
To: wfitch5413@aol.com

DEAR BETTY,
I AM RSVP'ING TO THE WONDERFUL EVENT IN JULY. I AM THE DAUGHTER OF
ELIZABETH ANN FITCH PEARSON. MY HUSBAND, WAYNE, MY DAD JOHN PEARSON,
AND MY BROTHER AND HIS WIFE, OAKLEY AND MARGARET PEARSON WILL ALL BE
ATTENDING THE REUNION! I HAVE ALWAYS WANTED TO GO AND I TRIED TO GET MOM
TO GO BEFORE SHE DIED...BUT IT DIDN'T WORK. I AM THE KEEPER OF THE FITCH
FAMILY MEMORABILIA AND WILL BRING SOME OF IT. I ALSO E-MAILED MY COUSIN
ANN NOBIS..AND I THINK THEY MIGHT COME AS WELL. I WILL BE MAKING
RESERVATIONS FOR ALL OF US AT THE MARRIOTT.
WE LEAVE FOR ITALY UNTIL JULY 5 AND WILL SEND A CONTRIBUTION UPON OUR
RETURN.

MANY THANKS
ANN GIRARD

Headers

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by rly-zc04.mx.aol.com (8.8.8/8.8.5/AOL-4.0.0)
with ESMTP id PAA08285 for <wfitch5413@aol.com>;
Sun, 6 Jun 1999 15:41:39 -0400 (EDT)
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by Enigma.metro2.k12.mn.us (8.8.5/8.8.5) with SMTP id OAA12641
for <wfitch5413@aol.com>; Sun, 6 Jun 1999 14:37:30 -0500 (CDT)
Message-ID: <375ACE7D.651E@mnet.net>
Date: Sun, 06 Jun 1999 14:39:41 -0500
From: Ann Girard <fancies@mnet.net>
Reply-To: fancies@mnet.net
X-Mailer: Mozilla 3.01C-KIT (Win95; U)
MIME-Version: 1.0
To: wfitch5413@aol.com
Subject: FITCH FAMILY REUNION
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

*Ann is the
daughter of Eliz. Ann Fitch Pearson
Eliz. Ann the dau. of Charles Fitch*

*Charles + Genevieve
Eliz. and John Pearson
Ann and Wayne Girard*

*Charles + Genevieve
Maxine + Loren Shink
Anne and Paul Nobis*

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June 24, 1999

Dear Betty,

Within the next few days I will pack up and ship the Fitch family photo and document albums to you. I figure that this is a safer means of getting them there on time, as I worry about baggage being temporarily lost on a flights where I change planes. I will email you the details (probably UPS, heavily insured, as the boxes may be rather heavy) when I know for sure. I plan to pack them this weekend.

Attached is a list of "to-do's" for the reunion. Your feedback would be appreciated. What have I missed?

I've noted with asterisks (**) the items that I will take care of. I've noted items that will need local attention with your initials (BF).

I have arranged with the Courtyard Marriott for use of their Summit Room on Friday evening from 7:00 to 10:00 pm with chairs for 50, a few tables and coffee. All gratis, due to the number of relatives who will be staying there.

Also enclosed is a draft copy of my treasurer's report, for your information.


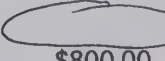
Have you heard if Mary Louise will be coming?

That's all for now.

Sincerely,

Bill

Fitch Family Treasurer's Report
6/24/99

Beginning Balance 2/18/99	\$1,181.62
Contributions from Fitch Descendants	\$906.00
 AVAILABLE FUNDS	 \$2,087.62
 Expenses	
Composition	\$21.90
Printing	\$429.71
Envelopes & Labels	\$20.33
Postage	\$220.00
Remailing Newsletters	\$20.78
Spring '98 Newsletter Sub-total	\$712.72
 Composition	 \$4.41
Printing	\$61.17
Postage	\$208.00
Reunion Postcards Sub-total	\$273.58
 Printing	 \$59.28
Envelopes & Labels	\$9.27
Postage	\$123.30
Reunion Invitations Sub-total	\$191.85
 Photography Supplies & Printing	 \$8.62
River Lodge Reservation Fee	\$166.00
Binders, Sheet Protectors & Labels	\$103.67
Reunion Name Tags & Forms	\$16.24
Miscellaneous	\$2.09
Other Expenses Sub-total	\$296.62
 TOTAL EXPENSES	 \$1,474.77
 Ending Balance 6/24/99	 \$612.85
 Reunion Contributions to-date	 
 Estimated Reunion Expenses	 
Estimated Cost of '99 Newsletter	\$800.00
Estimated Cost of Other Expenses	\$200.00
 PROJECTED BALANCE - 9/1/99	 (\$387.15)

by Bill Cassell, Fitch Family Historian & Newsletter Editor

Subj: **RSVP: Fitch Family Reunion**
Date: 6/24/99 3:35:55 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Fitch@IPFW.EDU (Fitch,Sally)
wfitc5413@AOL.COM

Dear Betty Fitch,

Just a note to let you know that my son, Chris Fitch, and his girlfriend plan to attend the Fitch reunion activities on Saturday, July 17. There is a possibility that I will come with them. I believe my other son, Brent Fitch, has already let you know that he and his family plan to come from Birmingham, MI. We all plan to bring food to share at the basket dinner.

I have asked Brent to bring along the brochure and other things he has from visiting the Fitch Castle in England. I also have a copy of a book entitled JOHN FITCH Volume II by Roscoe Conkling Fitch along with another book entitled OUTLINE OF A PLAN for the FITCH FAMILY ASSOCIATION (Confidential-only 250 Copies Issued). It says "This is Number 67 presented to Mr. Victor W. Fitch." Chris will bring these along if he remembers.

Although John and I were divorced in 1994, I have fond memories of attending reunions with him and my sons. John had married again, and has since died in December, 1998.

This will remain short because I have to type with one hand since I broke my arm a couple of weeks ago .

Sincerely,

Sally S. Fitch

----- Headers -----

Return-Path: <Fitch@IPFW.EDU>
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Date: Thu, 24 Jun 1999 14:33:56 -0400
Message-ID: <000411A5.C21227@ipfw.edu>
From: Fitch@IPFW.EDU (Fitch,Sally)
Subject: RSVP: Fitch Family Reunion
To: wfitc5413@AOL.COM
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Subj: Fitch reunion
Date: 6/24/99 5:00:31 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: NOBIS_A@HCCAI.HCCA.OHIO.GOV
wfit5413@aol.com

Mr. & Mrs. Paul M. Nobis (Paul and Anne) plan to attend the Fitch
reunion July 16, 17, 18.
876 Gray's Lane
New Richmond, OH 45157
513 553 3508

----- Headers -----

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Thu, 24 Jun 1999 17:00:31 -0400
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Jun 1999 17:00:31 -0400
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id <01JCSADKFXR48WWGUT@hccai.hcca.ohio.gov> for wfit5413@aol.com; Thu,
24 Jun 1999 17:01:46 EDT
Date: Thu, 24 Jun 1999 16:59:30 -0400 (EDT)
From: NOBIS_A@HCCAI.HCCA.OHIO.GOV
Subject: Fitch reunion
To: wfit5413@aol.com
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Content-type: TEXT/PLAIN; CHARSET=US-ASCII

Subj: **Tables on Friday**
Date: 7/1/99 11:31:36 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Cassellcw
To: WFitch5413

Dear Betty,

Thanks for the info on the boxes' arrival. I will sleep better tonight.

The Marriott coordinator, Desiree Reed, has promised whatever we need in the way of tables, as it is a simple thing for them to move a few more into the room, if we want them. I will finalize those arrangements with her on Friday afternoon after I look at the set-up and our needs. No need for card tables, but it's always better to worry about contingencies early.

Office Max/Office Depot is the same type of store as Staples, so I can secure what I will need from one of them.

Any idea of how long it takes to drive from Indianapolis to Fort Wayne? What I'd like to do is give you a time when I would most certainly be your area on Friday (the earlier, the better). The idea of setting a tentative meeting time is so that you don't have to stick around home waiting for me to arrive. Where we meet should be at your convenience. Since you will have all the materials, save those that I bring, I might suggest your home as a meeting place. Then we can review the weather situation, head counts, additional needs, etc.

I'm glad to hear that Sarah and some of her family will be coming.

One last item: As I intend to make the name cards for ID badges specific to Nathaniel's children (e.g. Perry, Mathias), it would be helpful to have a rough idea of how many are expected from each family. All I need is a rough count. I will bring many extras where there are large unknowns; but, for example, I doubt that many of Jennie's kin will be coming. None of Jennie's descendants are in the Fort Wayne area, and I haven't heard of any who are coming, save me. The same may be true of Charles or Sarah's families. I will need this information a few days before the reunion.

Sat
2:11

Subj: **Some additional attendees**
Date: 7/2/99 10:34:53 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Cassellcw
): WFitch5413

Dear Betty,

Thanks for the information on driving time from Indianapolis. If my plane is on time, I expect that I will be in Fort Wayne by 1:00pm. Would it be OK is I drove directly to your home at that time?

Thanks for the update on who is coming and who contributed.

I received family tree updates from Maggie Shaffer Vegeler and Suzette Wall Snyder. Both are coming to the reunion. Suzette, who is from Pittsburgh, will be there for all three days. Maggie wrote that she would attend some of the events, so I assume Friday and Saturday.

I'm not concerned about the turnout. We did a good job of publicizing it, so we know that those who want and are able to come will be there. We can't do more than that.

As to funding, we will be OK. With what you reported to me in your letter, we will have almost \$800 before the reunion out-of-pocket expenses. While it would be nice to have a post-reunion balance of \$1,000 for the next newsletter and other expenses, we can manage on less by making it a smaller newsletter than planned. The projected "other expenses" will disappear if no one brings photos for me to dupe and return.

I considered building some "profit" into the printing prices of photos from the albums, but I really want folks to order what they want for their families. Right now, my order form shows only our costs for printing and mailing photos, which I think is right.

I will write to Mary Louise tonight to check on her status. I hope that she is all right.

Sat
Bill

Subj: reunion
Date: 7/4/99 9:49:17 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: sandra.peterson@worldnet.att.net (Sandra Peterson)
wftch5413@aol.com (Betty Fitch)

Hi Betty,
I'm sorry to be late letting you know that I will be at the reunion. I
have reserved a room at Courtyard Marriott for the 16th and 17th of July
and will be driving down from Chelsea.
See you soon!
Love,
Sandy (Cassell) Peterson

Headers

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by rly-ya01.mx.aol.com (8.8.8/8.8.5/AOL-4.0.0)
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with ESMTP id TAA07232 for <wftch5413@aol.com>;
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Received: from computer1 ([12.76.65.206]) by mtiwmhc01.worldnet.att.net
(InterMail v03.02.07.07 118-134) with ESMTP
id <19990704232359.IDHO2808@computer1> for <wftch5413@aol.com>;
Sun, 4 Jul 1999 23:23:59 +0000
From: "Sandra Peterson" <sandra.peterson@worldnet.att.net>
To: "Betty Fitch" <wftch5413@aol.com>
Subject: reunion
Date: Sun, 4 Jul 1999 19:32:47 -0400
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal
X-Priority: 3
X-Mailer: Microsoft Internet Mail 4.70.1155
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Content-Type: text/plain; charset=ISO-8859-1
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
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Fitch Reunion To-Do
6/24/99

Family History:

Family tree spreadsheets (FTM)
Nathaniel Fitch**
DeLong Family - BF
Distant genealogy - BF
Photo albums (5)**
Large photos and posters**
Documents Binders (6)**
Jennie's Family book**
Maps of Fitch landmarks, including
FW/Allen County Museum**
Extra newsletters**

Reunion Set-up (Summit Room and River Lodge):

Name tags by family**
Name tag holders**
Door prize tickets**
Sign-in register**
Also for keeping track of payments
Order forms for photos & documents**

Foamcore for mounting - BF
Tape - Masking - BF
x Push pins - BF
x Pens - BF
Regular
Black marking for name tags
x Post-it notes for identifying photos - BF
Note pads - tracking people in photos**
Easels - BF

Cameras and film - All
Tape recorder & tapes**

Saturday Miscellaneous:

Games & Sports Equipment - BF

Locations for group photos
All
Grouped by N&S's children
Person to give invocation/grace
Dave Furlough?

Saturday Basket Dinner:

Door prizes:

Large photos of N & S**
Mugs with photos of N & S**
Copies of Jennie's Family**
Other?? Maybe table decorations?

Tables & Chairs - BF

Trash barrels - BF

Basket Dinner - BF & Phyllis

Paper plates

Paper cups

Hot

Cold

Plastic knives, forks & spoons

Paper/plastic bowls (for ice cream)

Table covering & masking tape

Paper napkins

Plastic trash bags & ties

Ice cream scoops (2)

Extra serving spoons

Coffee maker

Tea kettle

Containers for punch/lemonade
(if not purchased in same)

Coffee (& filters, if necessary)

Tea bags

Cream and milk for coffee/tea

Sugar & Sweetnlow for coffee/tea

Lemonade/punch

Ice for drinks, if necessary

Ice cream - 5 gal. containers**

Ice cream cones**

(I will take care of the ice
cream and cones when I
arrive, in memory of Ida &
Mel)

Agenda for business meeting

Recognize families/elders present
Deaths since July 1994**
Treasurer's report**
Estimate of Newsletter cost

Correspondence - BF

Future of reunions
Future of newsletters
Future of photos & documents
Sunday brunch??
Pass the hat

Call Phyllis
Monday

Thurs. 10.00
8 adults

Phyllis

**FORT WAYNE PARKS AND RECREATION
FUN KIT/SOFTBALL BASE RENTAL AGREEMENT**

Fun Kit Rental Fee:	\$10.00 x <u>1</u> = \$ <u>10.00</u>
Kids Fun Kit Rental Fee:	\$10.00 x <u> </u> = \$ <u> </u>
Volleyball/Softball Base Set:	\$10.00 x <u> </u> = \$ <u> </u>
Security Deposit (per kit or base set):	\$20.00 x <u>1</u> = \$ <u>20.00</u>
Total Amount for this Rental:	\$ <u>30.00</u>

For and in consideration of a rental fee(s) and Security Deposit as required above and paid simultaneously herewith, Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation hereby rents to the undersigned, hereinafter called "Renter", a Fun Kit and/or Kids Fun Kit and/or Volleyball/Softball Base Set, subject to the following:

1. The Fun Kits consist of various items of equipment as requested. Base sets consist of three bases. Volleyball set consists of net, poles and ball.
2. Rented kits and sets shall be returned in pre-rental condition to the Lawton Park Storeroom Office, **not later than** July 19th 1999
3. Checkout and return time is Monday through Friday, according to return date listed in item #2, between 8:00 a.m. and **BEFORE** 3:00 p.m., (Except holidays office is closed).
4. The Rental fee shall be \$10.00 for each kit or base set.
5. The Security Deposit shall be returned to the Renter upon return of the rented equipment.
6. If any equipment is lost, damaged, or not returned, the Renter shall be charged for such equipment in accordance with the Schedule of Costs posted at the Lawton Office. The Renter shall be required to promptly pay with cash or check (apart from deposit check, if check was written), and reimburse Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation for such lost, damaged or missing equipment.
7. Any Renter failing to return any Fun Kit/Set on the date listed in paragraph (2) above, shall be penalized at the rate of \$10.00 per day past the due day. The penalty amount shall be deducted from the Security Deposit, to indemnify Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation for any damage it may have suffered or will suffer because of failure to fully, faithfully and punctually perform the terms of this agreement. Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation shall in no way be precluded from recovering, in addition to the said Security Deposit, any other damages or expenses it may suffer by reason of such failure to perform by the Renter.

DATED THIS 15th DAY OF July, 1999.

RENTER: <u>Betty Fitch</u>	& SIGNATURE: <u>Wanda Fitch</u>
HOME ADDRESS: <u>14645 Auburn Rd</u>	DATE RETURNED: <u> </u>
ORGANIZATION: <u> </u>	RENTAL FEE CHARGED: <u>10.00</u>
BUSINESS ADDRESS: <u> </u>	DAMAGE FEE RETAINED: <u>0</u>
TELEPHONE #: <u>637-6401</u>	TOTAL TRANSACTION: <u>10.00</u>

Deposit
Returned
7/19/99
PES

FUN/KIDS FUN KIT CONTENTS

FUN KIT BAG# 1 #8

ITEM	QUANTITY		
	KIT	ISSUED	RETURNED
CONSUM FLAT BAT	1	1	1
WIFFLE BALL	2	2	2
SOFTBALL BAT, YOUTH 28"	1	1	1
SOFTBALL BAT, ADULT 31"	1	1	1
YELLER SOFTBALL	2	2	2
YELLER VOLLEYBALL	1	1	1
VOLLEYBALL NET	1	1	1
VOLLEYBALL NET POLES	2	2	2
YELLER SOCCER BALL	1	1	1
PLAYGROUND BALL	1	1	1
FRISBEE	2	2	2
CATCHBALL	1	1	1
SOFTBALL BASES, THROWDOWN	SET	set	set

RC

ab

KIDS FUN KIT# _____

ITEM	QUANTITY		
	KIT	ISSUED	RETURNED
EGG AND SPOON	6 EA		
JUMP ROPES	2		
FOXTAIL	1		
PADDLES/BALL/SHUTTLE COCK	2/1/1		
RING TOSS/HORSE SHOES	4		
HOWLER FOOTBALL	1		
SCOOP TOSS/BALL	2/1		
CHICKEN	1		
BOX HOCKEY	2		

RENTER: Betty Fitch & INITIALS: WF (Verifying quantities issued)
 TELEPHONE# 637-6401 DATE RENTED: 2/19/99
 DATE RETURNED: 2/19/99 ITEMS RETURNED AS NOTED.

Ft Wayne Parks & Recreation
705 E State Blvd
Ft Wayne, IN 46805
(219) 427-6000

FACILITY RESERVATION CONTRACT

Permit #: 8080

Date: 12/14/1998

CUSTOMER AND PAYMENT INFORMATION

Customer Name: BETTY FITCH

#: 048424

Address: 14615 AUBURN ROAD

FT WAYNE, IN 46845

Phone #: 637-6401 (219)

Customer Type: NON-RESIDENT

Payment Information

Total Amount Charged: \$ 166.00

Total Amount Paid To Date: \$ 166.00

Total Amount Refunded: \$ 0.00

Total Amount Discounted: \$ 0.00

Balance Due: \$ 0.00

FACILITY INFORMATION

Facility Name: RIVERLODGE PAVILION

Location: SHOAFF PARK

Facility Type: ENCLOSED PAVILION

6401 ST JOE ROAD

FORT WAYNE, IN 46835

Dates Reserved

Starts

Ends

Event

Attendance

Hours

Sat Jul 17, 1999 at 09:00A Sat Jul 17, 1999 at 11:00P FAMILY REUNION 150 14.000

Total Days:

1

Totals:

150

14.000

DISCLAIMERS

Please review the above information and verify the PAVILION and DATE OF RENTAL. If there is an error please call 427-6015 immediately.

ALL PAVILIONS ARE ALARMED. No admittance is allowed until the DAY AND TIME specified on your receipt. Set up and tear down must be completed during your specified time.

NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES are permitted on city property.

If a problem arises call the police dispatcher at 427-1213 and request a park unit be sent to help.

DON'T FORGET TO PICK UP THE KEY FOR YOUR PAVILION (unless you have rented Foster #2 or Franke #2)! JUST A REMINDER: There is a \$10.00 deposit for pavilion keys. PLEASE HAVE EXACT CHANGE OR A CHECK FOR YOUR KEY DEPOSIT. This will be returned when the keys are returned. Keys may be picked up one day prior to weekday reservations and on Fridays for weekend or Monday reservations. PLEASE NOTE: The Parks and Recreation Department is closed for various holidays throughout the year. Please arrange to pick up your pavilion key before holiday closings.

Please be aware there is a fee to change your pavilion or your date. Please refer to the PAVILION RENTAL INFORMATION FORM and follow all guidelines as listed.

THIS CONTRACT MUST BE PRESENTED IN ORDER TO PICK UP KEY!!!!

FOR YOUR RECORDS

Charge	Facility and Event	Orig Rec.	Due By	Amount Due
Charge 01 of 01 Permit #: 8080	RIVERLODGE PAVILION Sat Jul 17 1999 @09:00A to 11:00P	9404	12/28/1998	\$166.00
Total Due:				\$166.00

Ch. # 4039
12-21-1998

PLEASE RETURN TO
THE
RENTAL DEPARTMENT
WITH RECEIPT

PAVILION RENTAL INFORMATION

Key Deposit/Pickup

1. All pavilion users (except Foster #2 and Franke #2) are responsible for obtaining a key for unlocking and locking the pavilion.
2. Pavilion keys are distributed from the Parks and Recreation Administrative Building in Northside Park (corner of State and Parnell-entrance is off of Parnell by the tennis courts) between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Keys may be picked up one day prior to weekday reservations and must be picked up on Fridays for weekend reservations.

PLEASE NOTE: The Parks and Recreation Department is closed for various holidays throughout the year. Please arrange to pick up your pavilion key before holiday closings.

3. A **refundable key deposit of \$10** is required when the pavilion key is picked up. **Please have exact change or a check for your key deposit.** The deposit is refunded in full if the key is returned within three working days. A \$20 charge will be assessed if you fail to pick up your pavilion key and **must** call for assistance. This fee is non-refundable.
4. If you experience a problem with your pavilion rental on a weekend or after 5:00 p.m. on a weekday, please call City Communications at 427-1213 and request a Park Unit be sent to help. On weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., please call the Parks and Recreation Department at 427-6015.

Pavilion Rental Guidelines

1. Pavilions may be occupied no earlier than 9:00 a.m. and must be vacated by 11:00 p.m.
2. Pavilions should be left in a clean and orderly condition, including sweeping the floor and/or mopping. (Mops, brooms and buckets are provided. Please bring your own paper and cleaning products.) All trash should be properly disposed of in the containers provided.
3. Pavilions must be securely locked after use.
4. City ordinance prohibits the use of intoxicants in city parks and pavilions. Alcoholic beverages are not to be consumed, sold or given away on the premises. Smoking inside pavilions is also prohibited by city ordinance. These ordinances are strictly enforced.
5. Materials shall not be displayed against or nailed on the walls or woodwork nor attached to draperies. Directional signs placed outside must be removed when your party leaves the park.
6. Pavilion users shall not sell items in the pavilions without a vending license from the Parks and Recreation Department.
7. Teenage or student groups holding activities that include dancing in the pavilions must employ a security officer. All teenage use requires a chaperon/supervisor.
8. Each pavilion is equipped with the number of tables and chairs specified on the **Pavilions and Shelters Rental Guide** which is included with your invoice. We cannot provide extra tables or chairs. Please return tables and chairs to their pre-rental positions.
9. The Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Department and its employees shall not be responsible for damage to/or loss of property upon City premises sustained by applicant, participant in a program or patron of any program held on City property.
10. Because City parks are designated for public use, reserved parking is not provided for pavilion users. Parking on the grass is prohibited and is a violation of City ordinance.
11. A \$10 service charge is assessed on all returned checks.

Refunds/Transfers

Please notify the Department (219-427-6015) if you wish to cancel or reschedule your pavilion reservation. Refunds/transfers for canceled or rescheduled pavilion reservations shall be granted as follows:

6 or more months notice	Refund or transfer minus \$5 or 10% (whichever is greater)
2 - 6 months notice	Refund or transfer minus \$5 or 20% (whichever is greater)
1 - 2 months notice	NO REFUND / May reschedule with transfer fee of \$5 or 30% (whichever is greater)
Less than 1 months notice	NO REFUND / NO TRANSFER

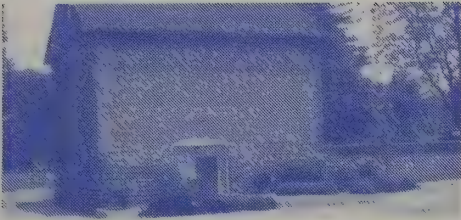
Note: Reservations may be transferred only one time.

I have READ and AGREE to the pavilion rental conditions outlined above.

Signature: Betty L. Fitch Date: 12-21-1988

Please complete this form and submit the white copy with payment to: Parks and Recreation, 705 E. State Blvd., Ft. Wayne, IN 46805.

Psi Ote Lower

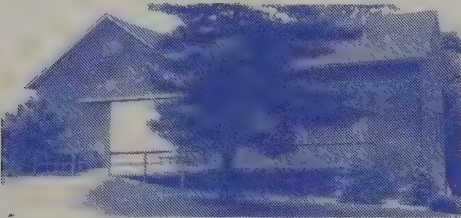


Location: Northside Park, E. State Blvd. & Parnell
 Capacity: 80



Description: Modern air conditioned and heated facility with sink, stove/oven, refrigerator, hot water, 5 electrical outlets, a 30-cup coffee pot, ten folding tables and private restrooms inside. Available for rental year round.

Psi Ote Upper

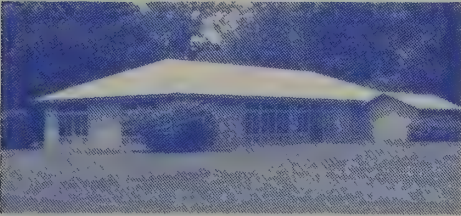


Location: Northside Park, E. State Blvd. & Parnell
 Capacity: 96



Description: Enclosed barn-style pavilion with large door; sink, hot plate, hot water, 5 electrical outlets, and twelve 8' folding tables; private restrooms inside; playground.

River Lodge



Location: Shoaff Park, 6401 St. Joe Rd.
 Capacity: 200



Description: Enclosed, modern facility on St. Joe River; kitchen with sink, stove, refrigerator, hot water and two 55-cup coffee pots; 19 electrical outlets; twenty-four 8' folding tables; private restrooms inside; playground. Renovated in 1995. Available for rental year round.

Rockhill



Location: Rockhill Park, Catalpa St. & West Jefferson Blvd.
 Capacity: 32

Description: Rustic, open shelter with small enclosed room; sink, hot plate, 2 electrical outlets and 4 picnic tables; community restrooms attached. Rockhill Park features a playground, a ball diamond and a basketball court.

Sears



Location: Indian Village Park, 1701 Bluffton Rd.
 Capacity: 80 inside, 16 outside



Description: Heated and air conditioned modern facility with small outdoor patio; kitchen with sink, stove, refrigerator, hot water and 55-cup coffee pot; private restrooms inside; 7 electrical outlets; twelve 8' folding tables inside and 2 picnic tables outside. Renovated in 1995. Available for rental year round.

Waynedale



Location: Waynedale Park, Koons & Elzy Streets
 Capacity: 42 inside, 48 outside



Description: Small enclosed room with large covered patio; fireplace inside and on the patio; sink, hot plate and 6 electrical outlets; five 8' and two 6' tables inside and 6 picnic tables outside; community restrooms attached; playground, basketball court and tennis courts.

Park Amenities

Foster Park
 Golf course, Rivergreenway trail, playground, Foster Gardens, tennis courts (lighted), volleyball courts (lighted), ball fields, soccer fields.

Franke Park
 Fort Wayne Children's Zoo, Shoaff Pond, ball diamond, rugby field, BMX bike track, hiking trails, Foellinger Outdoor Theatre, playground, abundant open space for playing.

Lakeside Park
 Lakeside Rose Garden, Lakeside Pond, playground, tennis courts, basketball courts, recreational softball area.

McMillen Park
 Golf course, ice arena, 8 ball diamonds, horseshoe pits, basketball court, tennis courts, playground and a leisure pool with water slides and sand play area.

Northside Park
 Tennis courts, playground, ball diamonds, soccer field, sand volleyball court and family leisure pool with water slides, shallow water area and sand play area.

Shoaff Park
 Golf course, baseball diamond, basketball court, frisbee golf course, access to St. Joe River, tennis courts, playgrounds, jogging trail, open space.

Fort Wayne Parks And Recreation
 705 East State Blvd.
 Fort Wayne, Indiana 46805
 (219) 427-6015



Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation

*Pavilions
 and
 Shelters*

Rental Guide

Conklin (North & South)



Location: Shoaff Park, 6401 St. Jpe Road
 Capacity: 144 each end
 Description: Enclosed pavilion with overhead doors; kitchen (sink, stove, hot water) and fireplace at each end; 13 electrical outlets; community restrooms attached to building; eighteen 12' folding tables with bench seats and two 8' serving tables at each end; playground.

Foster #1



Location: Foster Park, 3900 Old Mill Rd.
 Capacity: 336
 Description: Open pavilion with small enclosed kitchen (sink, hot water, hot plate); 6 electrical outlets; short distance to community restrooms and playground; sixteen 12' picnic tables.

Foster #2



Location: Foster Park, 3900 Old Mill Rd. ♿
Capacity: 128

Description: Open shelter with four 22' picnic tables and four 2-prong electrical outlets. Adjacent to restrooms and playground.

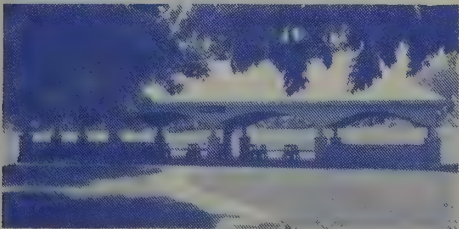
Franke #1



Location: Franke Park, 3411 Sherman Blvd. ♿
Capacity: 296

Description: Large enclosed pavilion with area for stage risers, two sinks, hot water, a hot plate, a 55-cup coffee pot, a refrigerator and 17 electrical outlets; private restrooms inside; thirty-seven 8' folding tables; short distance to playground. Available for rental year round.

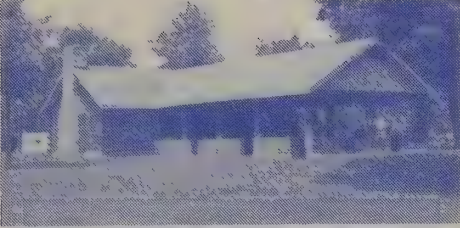
Franke #2



Location: Franke Park, 3411 Sherman Blvd. ♿
Capacity: 128

Description: Open shelter; 5 electrical outlets and eight 12' picnic tables. Short distance from community restrooms and playground.

Kettler



Location: Kettler Park, Paulding Rd. & Buell St.
Capacity: 46

Description: Small enclosed room with large covered patio; fireplace, sink, hot plate, 3 electrical outlets; five 8' and one 6' folding tables inside and 6 picnic tables outside; community restrooms located outside the building; playground, basketball court, softball field and tennis courts surround pavilion.

Lakeside #1



Location: Lakeside Park, 1401 Lake Ave. ♿
Capacity: 72

Description: Enclosed pavilion overlooking Lakeside Pond; fireplace, sink, hot plate, hot water, electrical outlets (6 inside, 2 outside), ten 8' folding tables; community restrooms outside; playground, tennis courts, ball diamond, basketball courts..

Lakeside #2



Location: Lakeside Park, 1401 Lake Ave. ♿
Capacity: 80

Description: Enclosed pavilion with overhead doors and fireplace overlooks Lakeside Pond and sits next to Lakeside Rose Garden; sink, hot water, hot plate, 8 electrical outlets;overhead door opener; private restrooms outside pavilion; eleven 8' folding tables; playground, tennis courts, basketball courts, ball diamond.

Lions



Location: Lions Park, Carew & Hazelwood ♿
Capacity: 48 inside, 48 outside

Description: Small enclosed room with large covered patio; fireplace inside and on patio; sink, hot plate, 9 electrical outlets, 6 folding tables inside, 6 picnic tables on patio; community restrooms outside building. Lions Park features a playground, tennis courts and a ball diamond.

McCormick



Location: McCormick Park, Holly & Raymond
Capacity: 104

Description: Medium-sized enclosed pavilion in picturesque setting; fireplace inside; sink, hot plate, 5 electrical outlets; eight 12' folding tables with bench seats and two 8' serving tables; community restrooms; playground.

McMillen (East & West)



Location: McMillen Park, Oxford & Hessen Cassel
Capacity: 256

Description: Large enclosed pavilion with overhead doors; sink, hot plate, electrical outlets and a fireplace at each end; Sixteen 12' folding tables with bench seats and two 8' serving talbes; community restrooms outside building. See park amenities on back panel. Renovated in 1995.

Memorial



Location: Memorial Park, Maumee & Glasgow
Capacity: 160

Description: Large enclosed pavilion with overhead doors, fireplace, sink, hot plate, 10 electrical outlets, overhead door opener, and ten picnic tables; community restrooms on outside of building. Memorial Park features a swimming pool, a ball diamond, a basketball court, a playground and tennis courts.

Pond



Location: Franke Park, 3411 Sherman Blvd. ♿
Capacity: 70

Description: Small enclosed pavilion overlooking Shoaff Pond; fireplace; kitchen with sink, stove, refrigerator, 55-cup coffee pot and hot water; 17 electrical outlets; eight 8' folding tables; and private restrooms inside pavilion.

Rental Information

Park pavilions and shelters are available for public rental May through October. Sears, Franke #1 and Psi Ote Lower are available year round. Pavilions may be reserved up to one year in advance. Other park facilities such as floral gardens, the Community Center, the Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory, swimming pools, tennis courts and athletic fields may also be reserved for exclusive use. For more information or to make a reservation, please call the Parks and Recreation Department at (219)427-6015.

For information regarding our fun-packed Picnic Kit, please call the park maintenance office at (219)427-6400.

RECEIPT BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

General FUND

No 12355

FT. WAYNE, IND., 7-15- 1999

RECEIVED FROM Betty Fitch \$ 30.00
THE SUM OF Thirty Dollars ^{00/100} DOLLARS
ON ACCOUNT OF Fun Kit

Payment Type: Cash ☐ Check ☐ M.O. ☐

Kristen Kruchten
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE



Ft Wayne Parks & Recreation**705 E State Blvd****Ft Wayne, IN 46805****(219) 427-6000*****Facility Payment Receipt***

Date: 12/22/1998**Office Receipt #:****Receipt #:** 9425**Operator:** 071**PAYEE:**

BETTY FITCH

14615 AUBURN ROAD

FT WAYNE IN 46845

Customer #: 048424

637-6401 (219) - (219)

Total Amount Paid: \$ 166.00

Cash	\$ 0.00	ID #:
Check	\$ 166.00	Check #: 4039
Card	\$ 0.00	Card #:
Memo	\$ 0.00	Memo #:

Bank #:
Card Type:**PAYMENT(S):**

Description	Facility Name	Event	Date	Res #	Qty	Amt Owed	Amt Paid	Balance
RIV_NRWE/HO	RIVERLODGE	FAMILY REUNION	07/17/1999	8080	1.00	\$ 166.00	\$ 166.00	\$ 0.00
Totals:						\$ 166.00	\$ 166.00	\$ 0.00

Thank You for your payment!

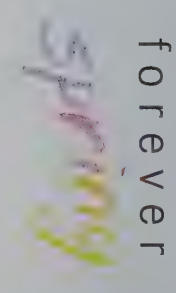


Thurs. July 15

Hi Betty -

Hope reunion was
great. I'm sorry not
to be on my way to join
you. I hope your
genealogical work has been
a success and will be
made known to all.

Francie Mann



*"Hydrangea Basket"
Original watercolor painting
by artist Joan Sanford*



For Diagnosis, Caregiving or Treatment Materials,
Contact the Alzheimer's Association at 1-800-272-3900
www.alz.org

Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Association, Inc.
919 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 1000 • Chicago, Illinois 60611-1676

Is Your Branch of Our Family Tree Correct and Complete?

Please review the attached family tree for errors and omissions. Write your corrections on the tree, noting how any new individuals are related to existing ones

Everyone should have: **First, Middle and Last Name**
Date of Birth
Place of Birth

All living persons should have a **Mailing Address**.

All marriages should have a **Date of Marriage**.

All **divorces** should be noted, but no date is necessary.

Individuals who have died should have a **Date of Death**.

Note if a child is **Adopted**. (This won't show up on the tree, but it's in our records.)

If you'd like to provide the information, we will record places of marriage and burial locations.

Also, phone numbers and email addresses are greatly appreciated, in case I have a question.

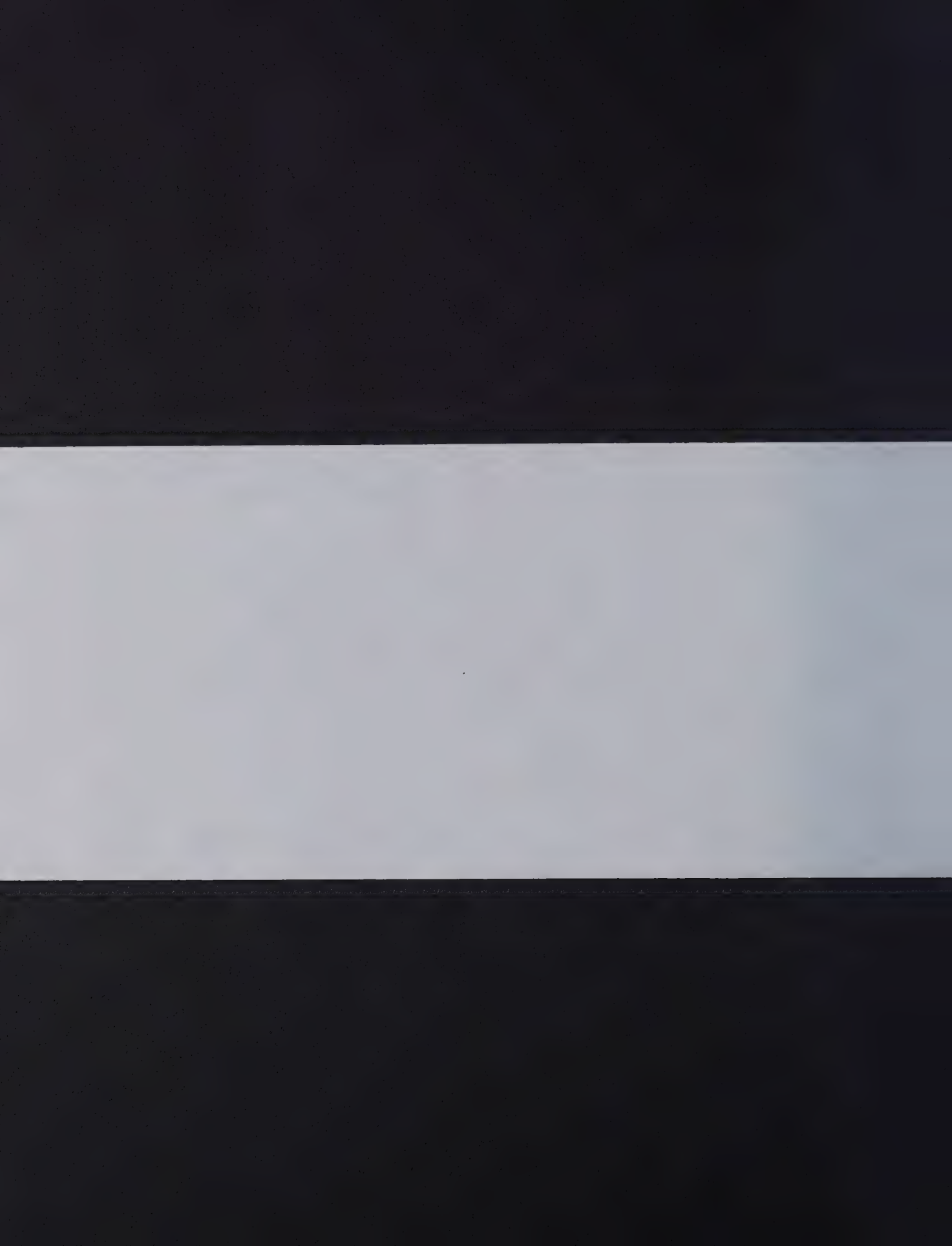
Send your corrected tree branch to:

Bill Cassell
9 Independence Avenue
Lexington, MA 02421

781-862-6172

FAX: 781-862-5319

email: cassellcw@aol.com



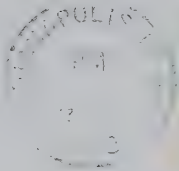
7/19/99

Dear Betty and Warren,

Finally got home at 1:30 AM. A delayed flight out of Washington, DC.

Enclosed is a check made out to you. I have not recorded this check in my file.

Again, my thanks to you both.
I will be sending out a postcard to the attendees, asking for copies of photos and names of family reunion representatives.
Bill

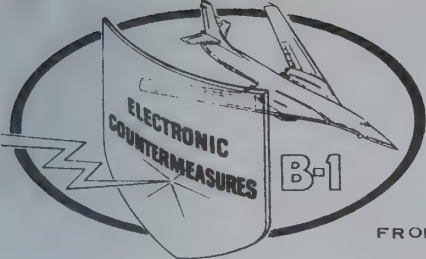


St. John's College, Annapolis, Maryland

Betty Fitch
14615 Auburn Rd
St Wayne In
46845



Ken & Pam (Fitch) Jorgensen
will be attending
the reunion on Saturday



FROM THE DESK OF
DICK HOUSER

24 June 99

Dear Betty,

Yes, we will try to make the 88th Reunion. We have made reservations at the Marriott. Some of our boys' families may make it, but no firm commitments.

Jan is having trouble getting around, but she will try anyway. If we don't make it, here is a small contribution.

Best regards,
Dick



June 9, 1999

Dear Betty,

This is to let you know that my husband and I plan to attend the Fitch Family Reunion at Shoaff Park on Saturday, July 17, 1999.

Looking forward to seeing you and a lot of other Fitch relatives.

Your cousin,

Elaine Kouser Kirbach

*Illustration by
Ron Schreiner*



MADE IN USA

© EPVA 125NK99273AU

RECYCLABLE

from Salina, KS:

Nina Fair Wall

Jane Wall Maxwell

from Kansas City:

Patricia Wall Young

Elizabeth Young
(age 3)

from Pittsburgh, PA:

June Suzette Wall Snyder
"Sue"

Julie Catherine Snyder
(age 19)

Patricia Jane Snyder
(age 16)

Jun 28, 1999

Dear Betty,

We're excited to go to the Fitch Family Reunion! We are Franceline's family. We're planning to meet in Fort Wayne for the Reunion. We have reserved rooms at the Courtyard Marriott for July 16 and July 17. We plan to arrive for the Fri eve informal gathering.

We plan to attend the
Saturday events. Some
of us may be able to
stay for Sunday
breakfast with the
Fitch km.

Our family who
plan to attend are
as follows:

from Alden, KS:

Sara Fair Sleeper
(She probably RSVP'd
separately)

I enclose a
contribution to The
Reunion fund.

I'm looking forward
to meeting you.

I will let you
know of any changes
in family members
attending The Reunion.

Sincerely,

Sue Snyder

(412) 521-0130

HELEN SILHA

5/24/99

Dear Betty —

I will be attending the Fitch Family reunion. I will be arriving with my niece, Alice Deek and leaving with another niece, Charlotte Wnepper. I have made a reservation at the Courtyard Marriott. I may have my ten year old grandson, Roud Remann with me.

I am enclosing a check
which I hope will help
with the mailing.

Thanks ^{for} your willingness
to be in charge.

I look forward to being
there and to seeing you.

Helen Fitch Selma

Dear Betty,


I'm planning to attend
The reunion and have enclosed
a check to help with expenses.
See you later.

A cousin,

Ann Kelham

6851-Co Rd 5

La Otto, In 46763



Dear Betty:


My husband and I are planning on attending the Fitch reunion on July 16, 17, 18.

We would like to take part in the Friday evening informal gathering and then the potluck on Sat. 17. I will not participate in anything on Sunday. We would like to attend our home church in Fort Wayne on Sunday.

Looking forward to meeting all of my Fitch cousins. Probably will not know anyone as it has been many years since we have attended a Fitch reunion. We would take my mother to the the reunions and that has been many years ago. Hope to see you there, Betty.

Yours truly,

Joan Gladbach Ewing
Perry Fitch Family



Fitch reunion convenes for final hurrah

By Larry Rubama
The Journal Gazette

Since 1884, the descendants of Nathaniel and Sarah DeLong Fitch have come together to celebrate their family history with a reunion.

But for the more than 100 family members who gathered at Shoaff Park on Saturday, this may be the last one.

The reason, according to family historian Bill Cassell, is that it's becoming more difficult to keep up with family members.

"The greatest problem is people moving and not telling you where they are," Cassell said. "So the question is will there be another one, because even though it's a great tradition, there comes a point where you can't link back."

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Huntertown. Nathaniel and Sarah Fitch were married June 4, 1840.

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Saturday's event was the family's 88th reunion.

Now that all may be over, which is what brought Pat Young to Fort Wayne from Kansas City, Kan.

"I came because they told us that this may be the last one, so I really wanted to come," she said. "I didn't know much about it before, so I thought this would be a wonderful way to come back to my roots and see where it all began."

That's also what enticed Ken Moudy to come. He's heard about the reunions in the past but never has made it to one until now.

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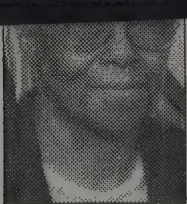
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Cathie Rowand/The Journal Gazette

Sisters Dorothy Lucas, left, and Ann Kelham, whose mother was a Fitch, look at a diagram of the family tree at the Fitch family reunion Saturday. This could be the last Fitch reunion.



Howell

wayne in 1943 and was a homemaker. Her husband, Harry, died in 1982. Surviving are two daughters, Mary L. Curry and Cleosia Draughn, both of Fort Wayne; a grand-

child; two brothers, Lester Box of Rockford, Ill., and Ollie "Jack" of Detroit; and a sister, Charlene Jefferson of Chidester. **Services at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Turner Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church, 836 E. Jefferson Blvd., with calling from 6 to 8 p.m. Monday.** Burial at Highland Park Cemetery. Memorials to the church. Arrangements by Micheaux Funeral Home, 1338 Eliza St.

RICHARD ALAN McCANN, 50, of Richmond, formerly of Fort Wayne, died Monday at Veterans Administration Hospital, Dayton, Ohio. Born in St. Louis, he attended South Side High School and lived in Fort Wayne until 1968 when he joined the Marine Corps and served in Vietnam until 1972. He returned to Fort Wayne after his discharge and worked at International Harvester Co. and as an automobile mechanic. He moved to Richmond in 1992. Surviving are his wife, Margaret Ann; his mother and stepfather, Elva and Rexford Glass of Fort Wayne;



Walker

and five great-grandchildren. **Services at 6 p.m. today at D.O. McComb & Sons Lakeside Park Funeral Home, 1140 Lake Ave., with calling starting at 2 p.m.** Burial at Catholic Cemetery. Memorials to Queen of Angels Catholic Church or St. Jude's Shrine.

INDIANA

Bluffton

ROBERT L. STRAHLEY, 62, died Friday at Lutheran Hospital, Fort Wayne. Born in Paulding, Ohio, he was a Wells County resident for 40 years and was owner for 34 years of the Rainbow Cafe in Markle. Surviving are his wife, Eleanor; his mother, Edna of Paulding; a stepdaughter, Diane K. Pease of Keystone; a stepson, Robert S. Garrett of Huntington; three brothers, Bill, Paul and Charles, all of Paulding; five grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. **Services at 1:30 p.m. Monday at Goodwin Memorial Chapel, Bluffton, with calling from noon to 8 p.m. today and an Elks Lodge memorial service at 7 p.m.** Burial at Fairview Cemetery, Bluffton. Memorials to Elk's Cancer Research Fund.

Fort Wayne, and Gregg Haner of Chicago; seven grandchildren;

ton, and Diana Shaw of Bluffton; and two grandchildren. **Services at 10 a.m. Tuesday at Myers Funeral Home, Huntington, with calling from 3 to 5 and 6 to 8 p.m. Monday.** Private family graveside services at a later date. Memorials to American Heart Association, in care of Cindy McCoy, Huntington Memorial Hospital, 1215 Etna Ave., Huntington, IN 46750.

LaFontaine

JAMES LEROY SMEISER, 64, died Thursday at his home. Born in Huntington County, he had been a farmer in Huntington County and retired after 19 years as a social studies and health teacher at Bippus, Jefferson, Millersburg and Warren schools. He also had been basketball coach at Millersburg. Surviving are his wife, Joyce Eilean; two sons, Jacob L. of Bloomington and Joseph L. of LaFontaine; two daughters, JoEllen Merryman of Nappanee and Jennifer Kingery of Huntington; two brothers, Jerry of LaFontaine and Bruce of Fort Wayne; and three grandchildren. **Services at 11 a.m. Monday at Banquo Christian Church, LaFontaine. Calling from noon to 8 p.m. today at Glancy Funeral Home, H. Brown & Son Chapel, Warren, and at the church an hour before services.** Burial at Mount Etna Cemetery. Memorials to the church at Indiana 105, LaFontaine, IN 46940.

Goleta, Calif., Roger of Sacramento, Calif., and Joseph of Silver Lake; a brother, Gordon Howell of North Webster; six grandchildren; and a great-grandchild. **Services at 4 p.m. Aug. 17 at DeLaughter-McKee Mortuary, Silver Lake Chapel. No calling.** Burial at Ulrey Memorial Cemetery, Kosciusko County. Memorials to donor's choice.

South Whitley

CLYDE PARKER RICHARD, 95, died Saturday at Peabody Retirement Community, North Manchester. Born in Whitley County, he was a longtime resident of the South Whitley area and also had lived briefly in California. He was a resident of the Peabody center since 1996. He had worked for 23 years at Whitley Manufacturing Co. His wife, Pauline K., died in 1995. Surviving are a stepdaughter, Beatrice Parkherst of Cayuga, and three step-grandchildren. **Masonic service at 4 p.m. today at Smith and Sons Funeral Home, Columbia City, with calling two hours before services.** Burial at South Whitley Cemetery. Memorials to Shriners Children's Hospital.

Topeka

MARY MILLER, 87, died Saturday at her home. Born in Yoder, Kan., she had lived in the Topeka area since 1965 and was a homemaker. Surviving are her husband, William A.; eight sons, Eli of

Almost Invisible Hearing Aid

SAVE!

Quality - At
Affordable Prices
Wide Selection

**•In Office
Our Customer
FOR
Thousand
WE ALSO M**

(Will me



1999 Fitch Family Reunion

WARREN Fitch

Mathias Fitch Descendant

1999 Fitch Family Reunion

Betty Fitch

Mathias Fitch Descendant

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By Larry Rubama
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Cathie Rowand/The Journal Gazette

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Checks I cashed:

Mary Belle Brogren	\$ 30.00
Helen Silha	100.00
Elizabeth Newell	10.00
Ellen Adams, Dennis	10.00
John and Gail Stratton	10.00
Bob and Mad Fitch, Seattle	50.00
Ann Kelham	10.00
Dick Houser	25.00
Sandra Peterson	<u>40.00</u>
Total	\$285.00

Expenses:

Party Outlet, table goods	\$ 50.54
½ pkg. Sheet protectors	2.10
Alt. Genealogy pages, 30x4	6.30
Fun Kit, volleyball, etc.	10.00
masking tape	1.05
sharpie pens	1.56
Pop	14.96
24 pk of cherry 7-up	4.00
napkins	1.21
sugar packs	1.70
tea bags	2.20
coffee mate packets	1.77
Sweet and Low	1.09
paper towels	.50
extra spoons, ice cream	1.70
extra foam cups	1.05
trash bags	1.55
extra foam plates	1.56
coffee	2.50
push pins	1.00
foam board	4.80
ice	10.71
lemonade	18.27
cream	<u>.80</u>
	\$ 142.92

\$285.00	Checks
-142.92	Expenses
<u>142.08</u>	Balance



The Fitch family business and friendship were topics of conversation for, from left, John Priest, of Fremont; Richard Fitch, of Huntertown; and John Wuepper, of St. Joseph, Mich., at the Fitch family reunion in July at Shoaff Park. The family reunions began in 1884.

By Clair Winesburg
for The News-Sentinel

Growing pains

As the Fitch family reunion gets bigger, so do problems with staying connected.

Fitch family facts

- ◆ Family tradition says that at one time, a member of the Fitch family owned all of Perry Township.
- ◆ Ice cream is a staple at Fitch family reunions. Even during the Depression, they always had

ice cream.

- ◆ The first documented reunion was held at the Fitch homestead in Perry Township in 1884.
- ◆ The family is still in search of the "Fitch Flag," a version of Old Glory featured in many family photographs.

By Bethany Beebe

nsnews@news-sentinel.com

A Perry Township family that has cultivated its kinship at reunions since the 1800s found itself talking about making this year's reunion its last.

Family history continually grows, and reunions get bigger and require more people to travel greater distances each time.

Keeping a family reunion tradition going is a big job.

About 140 members of the Fitch family met at Shoaff Park on July 17 to carry out the tradition of family reunions that has been going on since 1884, when Sarah and Nathaniel Fitch and their descendants gathered.

The discussion that this could be the last family reunion and that the newsletter could end had begun earlier.

"The family is just getting so big," said Sandy Peterson of Chelsea, Mich.

Bill Cassell, newsletter editor and family historian, said in the spring 1998 edition that the newsletter might end.

Running out of material about ancestors, waning response when searching for information, and increased costs of publication and mailing caused the family to look closely at whether to continue the genealogical pursuit, Cassell wrote.

The family newsletter contains anecdotes, copies of old photographs and wedding certificates, and announcements of births and deaths.

Cassell's interest in learning about the family goes beyond collecting historical information.

"I think I've worked in genealogy because I've been curious why I am as I am ... and

some of those questions get answered from the past," he said. How we treat children and how we discipline children is one sense of identity that Cassell said we gain from our relatives. He said he does not believe in striking children and gave a similar example from one of his relatives.

A young Fitch child many years ago went off to play without permission during a church service with some other boys. The boy's father followed and found him playing in the woods. After he took the child aside behind a group of trees, the other children were sure that the boy was receiving a harsh physical punishment.

Instead, the boy and his father were praying.

After opening the family meeting with a prayer, which is a tradition, the group voted on the fate of the publication and the re-

unions.

"We've decided to continue the newsletter and reunion," Cassell said.

So five years from now, the Fitch family will once again gather to revel in its family history.

But now, instead of one person being responsible for the entire family newsletter, representatives have been assigned to update information for each branch. Also, funds were collected at the reunion to help lighten the economic burden.

The oldest attendee from the Perry S. Fitch side of the family, William S. Fitch II, is convinced that the family does its reunions the right way. And he will tell you that the quality of the events happens for a reason.

"Of course it's done well," he said, "they're Fitches."

In-Home PC makes house calls to solve computer problems

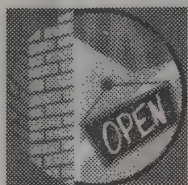
By Debra K. Scheiman-Neilson
nsnews@news-sentinel.com

If you own a home computer, you're invited to experience a new form of assistance: computer house calls.

Bill Byers opened In-Home PC Support and Service, an in-home PC repair and training business, in April. Among his many services are:

- ◆ Installation or upgrades of hardware and software
- ◆ Y2K testing and repair
- ◆ E-mail and Internet setup and training
- ◆ Software and hardware conflict repair

"Our goal is to keep people online and operational by giving timely, quality service within their own homes and/or home offices and keeping problems contained to a minimum. By one-on-one teaching,



NEW BUSINESS

we enable others to obtain the most from their computers by an increased sense of independence in overall use of their PC," Byers said.

Byers employs two technicians.

He believes his business provides a much-needed service.

"I felt a need for our services due to the inconvenience of 'carry-in' repair and lack of training avenues, especially for seniors, who tend to learn better on their own computers," he said. "Seniors are currently one of the largest growing computer client sectors, using them in retirement after a career of using them or embarking on a new endeavor.

"Most any person finds it difficult to disconnect and transport a computer by car to a retail repair outlet, where it can be out of commission a week or more," he added. "My goal is to allow them freedom for use while in the midst of repair. Decreased downtime is a benefit anyone appreciates."

Byers, a former operations manager, Novell network administrator, LAN-WAN manager and graphic designer, personally enjoys the freedom his own business affords him.

"I love the opportunity to schedule my time around my family and children," he said. "My wife and I have a 20-year-old son and a little daughter we adopted from China three years ago. It's great to pick up and go places like the zoo with her and attend events which the corporate world never allowed me."

Byers hopes to employ more technicians in the future, yet keep the quality and personalized service as his No. 1 duty to clients.

"We treat our clients as our friends and aim for 100 percent satisfaction," he said. "We keep our overhead down by not having the usual retail rent, signage and liability expenditures."

Byers charges \$50 per hour, compared with \$65 to \$95 per hour at a retail outlet. All work is guaranteed, and items come with a 30-day replacement guarantee.

Seniors age 55 and over can get a 20 percent discount on training classes.

In-Home PC Support and Service is available by calling 625-5099. Appointments are required. Service is also provided to Columbia City, Auburn, Bluffton and Decatur. Service calls within a five-mile radius of Fort Wayne are free.

Byers, his wife, Pamela, son, Benjamin, and daughter, Katie, are members of St. Vincent's Catholic Church. He and his wife are also members of Internationally Ours, an international adoptee group.

If you have opened a new, small business in the past six months, write to Neighbors at PO Box 102, Fort Wayne, IN 46801, or call 461-8296 to receive a form to begin the process of telling your neighbors about it.

Club news

Crimestoppers at mission

Fort Wayne Rescue Mission Auxiliary will meet at noon Aug. 18 at its headquarters, 301 W. Superior St. Joe Alvarez of Crimestoppers will speak.

Embroiderers meeting

Fort Wayne Area Embroiderers will meet at 9 a.m. Aug. 16 at Allen County Public Library, 900 Webster St. Kay Griffith will teach beaded applique. For information, call Linda at 745-0363.

Teamster retirees supper

Teamster Retirees Local 414 will

meet at 1 p.m. Aug. 17 at Union Hall, 2644 Cass St. A potluck supper will follow the meeting.

Poets to share their work

Northeast Indiana P.O.E.T.S. will meet 7-9 p.m. Aug. 11 at the Allen County Public Library board room, 900 Webster St. Participants will share original poetry. Call Eleanor at 447-9211.

Sons of Norway picnic

Sons of Norway will hold a carry-in picnic at 4:30 p.m. Aug. 15 at St. Clair's Retreat. Participants are asked to bring a dish to share. Res-

ervations are needed; call Kari at 489-5004 by Aug. 11.

Korean veterans to meet

Korean War Veterans Association will meet 9 a.m. Aug. 14 at American Legion Post 82, 3501 Harris Road. Breakfast will be available 7:30-9 a.m. Call Mary Anna Roemke at 485-7627.

To have your club's information published in Club News, submit the information in writing with the name and telephone number of a person we can call in the daytime for more information. Deadline is noon Tuesday for publication Wednesday of the following week. Questions? Call Neighbors at 461-8633.

Marriage licenses

Larry Mitchell of Chartwell Drive and Lisa Simmons of Chartwell Drive
Chad Diehm of Mill Run Road and Kimberly Rose of Pinetree Drive
George Harker of Le Steele Boulevard and Nekia McCloskey of Le Steele Boulevard
Lonnie McCaleb IV of Fayette Drive and Monchia Bledsoe of Fayette Drive
Jack Poling of Defiance, Ohio, and Carrie Commisso of Defiance, Ohio
Andrew Booth of Woodstream Drive and Trisha Delagrange of Brookline Court
Matthew Elder of Wawonaissa Trail and Rebekah Kemp of Shamrock Road
Joe Neal of Oliver Street and Kendra Douglas of Oliver Street
Paul Casiano of Oak Tree Court and Michelle King of Hazelwood Avenue
Gregory Bickel of South Barr Street and Larrie Richardson of South Barr Street
Isaac Wilson of Holton Avenue and Carolyn Hall of Holton Avenue
Jack Springer of Country Forest Drive and Sharon Becker of Country Forest Drive
Benjamin Schmucker of Grabill and Suzanna Zehr of Grabill
Jason Patton of East Wayne Street and Amy Bultemeyer of Ardmore Avenue
Marty Raugh of East Belmont Drive and Jodi Strickler of Stryker, Ohio
Scott Fladhammer of West Sherwood Terrace and Christine Williamson of West Sherwood Terrace
Joseph McElroy of Abbey Drive and Shannon Wilder of LaGrange
Ryan Minch of Hunters Glen Drive and Emily Garman of Hunters Glen Drive
Gene Brown of Senior Drive and Suzanne Yoder of Forest Avenue
Jeremy Drew of Karen Court and Naomi Kibride of Karen Court
Freddy Reyes of South Wayne Street and Taima Hurley of South Wayne Street

Michael Reuille Sr. of Russell Avenue and Tiffany Henry of Russell Avenue
Lawrence Surine of Chatham Drive and Tristina Fakright of Chatham Drive
Rodney Lennon of Northlawn Drive and Yvonne Barrand of Northlawn Drive
Christopher Cook of Yoder and Yvonne Burroughs of Yoder
Daniel Ross of Isleview Cove and Ann Graham of Archer Avenue
Edward Ashef of New Haven and Nancy Mansfield of Columbia City
Chad Squires of Lynn Avenue and Cristin Hart of West Washington Center Road
Robert Anderson of Broadway and Jennifer Cunningham of Ligonier
Joseph Fuhrman of Decatur and Teresa Bauman of West Cook Road
Robert Alfeld of Canterbury Boulevard and Debra Yeager of Canterbury Boulevard
Kerry Grabowski of Cold Springs Boulevard and Jenny Zumwalt of Cold Springs Boulevard
Dan Grubbs of Euclid Avenue and Angela French of Euclid Avenue
Robert Kaiser II of Dunmore Lane and Rob LaBelle of Fox Glove Lane
Oscar DeLuna of Victor Lane and Alma Roque of Reed Street
Michael Brown of Serenity Drive and Cynthia Vachon of Lenox Avenue
Philip Baker of Mill Road and Dawn LaPorte of Mill Road
Alonzo Haney of Elmrow Drive and Claudia Cole of Elmrow Drive
Eric Jones of South Monroe Street and Vicky Saylor of West Packard Avenue
Marcus Schwartz of Grabill and Clara Miller of Grabill
Jason Hicks of Coventry Parkway and Braden Butterfield of Wolcottville
Brandon Brumbaugh of Wave Circle and Elizabeth Vinson of Wave Circle

Dewey Rigbsby of O'Day Road and Gayle Moyer of O'Day Road
Eric Lewis of Monroe Street and Tanika Jones of Monroe Street
Thomas Squire of St. Louis Avenue and Barbara McComb of New Haven
James Bryant of Wallen Run and Sharla Keels of East Branning Avenue
Erik Blumenberg of Saddleback Court and Emily Burman of Saddleback Court
Donald Kanable of Monroeville and Lorraine Thomson of Monroeville
Scott Worrell of Mirada Drive and Shannon Alexander of Mirada Drive
Michael Goldsmith of Yoder and Angela Williams of North Anthony Boulevard
Clayton Smith of Glenwood Avenue and Emily Berg of Glenwood Avenue
Michael Rennecker of Cambridge Boulevard and Lisa Rinard of Cambridge Boulevard
William Hagerman of Cherrywood Drive and Michelle Surbeck of Elnora Drive
Scott Winling of Dune Creek Cove and Tiffany Doyle of St. Joe River Drive
Koft Turnage of East Pontiac Street and Julia Gholston of East Pontiac Street
Eric Dunaway of Indiana Avenue and Amanda Chapman of Indiana Avenue
Michael Gentry of Leo and Michelle Yovanovitch of Leo
Steve Doan of Boone Street and Karee Cobb of Boone Street
Mohammed Hamid of Largo, Fla., and Mehjabeen Mirza of Monet Drive
Antonio Hansen of Lake Avenue and Violet Green of Lake Avenue
Derek Norwalt of Eastwick Drive and Amy Williamson of Eastwick Drive
Johan Alp of New Haven and Christina Kolterman of West Branning Avenue
Nathan Hoot of Brighton Meadows Drive and Joy Davis of New Haven



Standard Federal Bank is pleased to announce a program designed to make home ownership more affordable. We have designed a free seminar for people who want to purchase a home, but are not sure where to begin. The program offers smaller down payments, less restrictive terms, and helpful tips on how to go about selecting and financing a home. At the conclusion of the seminar, each participant will receive a certificate entitling them to apply for a home loan under Standard Federal's Community Home Buyer's Program. Please call 219/423-2377, ext. 7826 for reservations.

Plus get a certificate for \$100 off your closing fee for completing the seminar.

Wednesday, August 18, 1999

6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Standard Federal Bank

200 E. Main Street

Fort Wayne

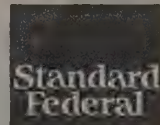
Refreshments Will Be Served

Helping You Along The Way.™

Standard Federal Bank
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Certain income limits apply, and there are no guarantees that your loan will be approved. Participants in the program are under no obligation to apply for a mortgage loan.



July 16, 1999



Rachel

Sue

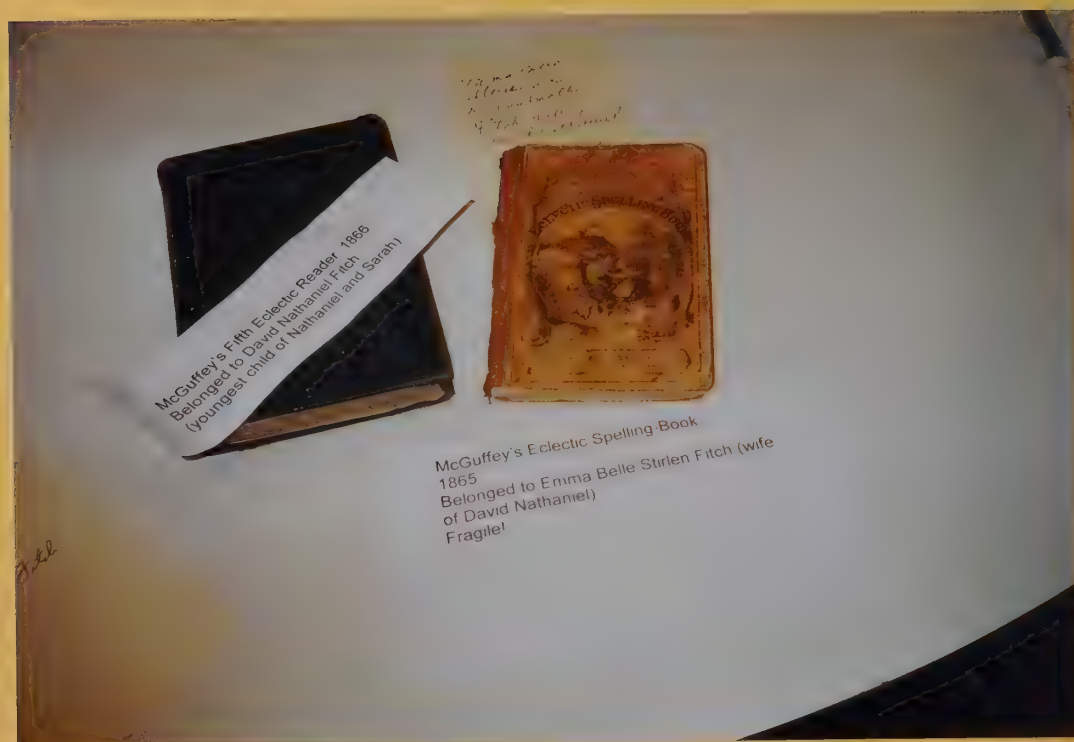
Maxine



WARREN

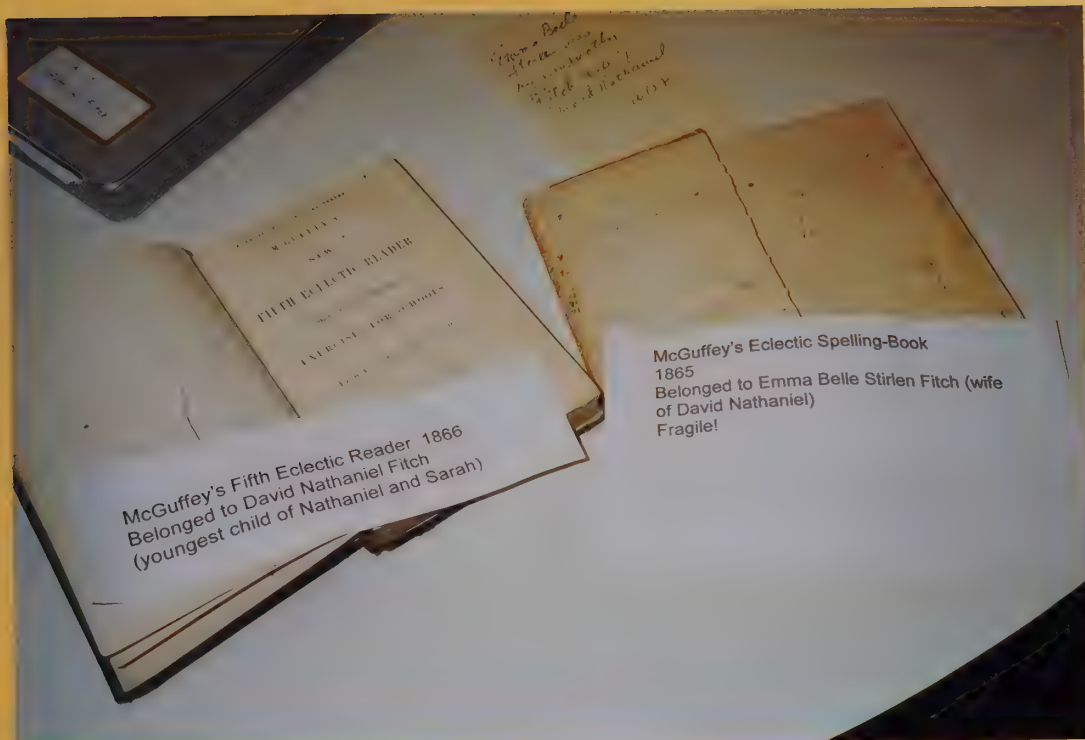


Silverplate that belonged to Emma, David Fitch's wife



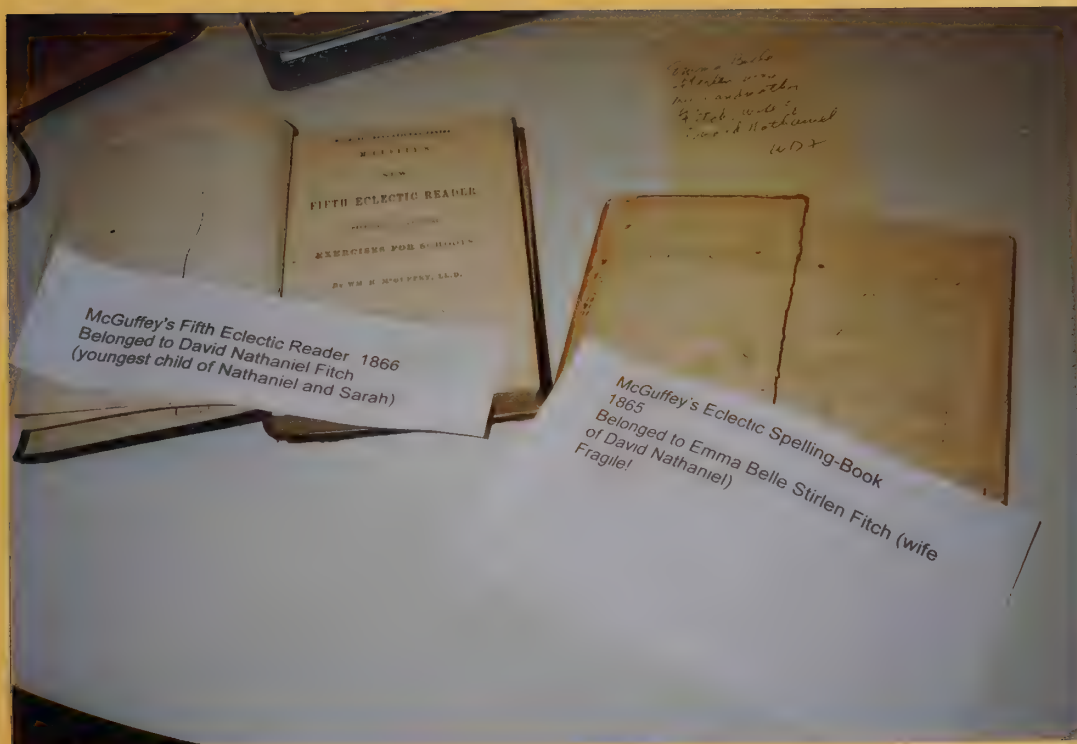
David's McGuffey Reader

Emma's McGuffey Speller



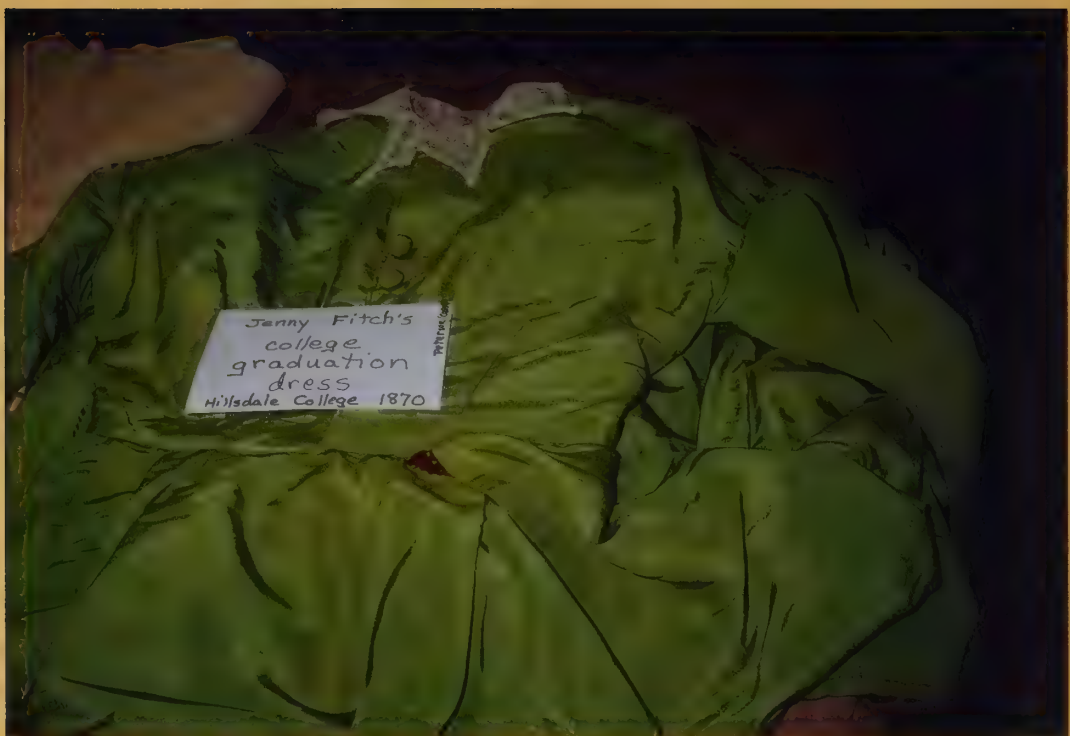
McGuffey's Fifth Eclectic Reader 1866
Belonged to David Nathaniel Fitch
(youngest child of Nathaniel and Sarah)

McGuffey's Eclectic Spelling-Book
1865
Belonged to Emma Belle Stirlen Fitch (wife
of David Nathaniel)
Fragile!

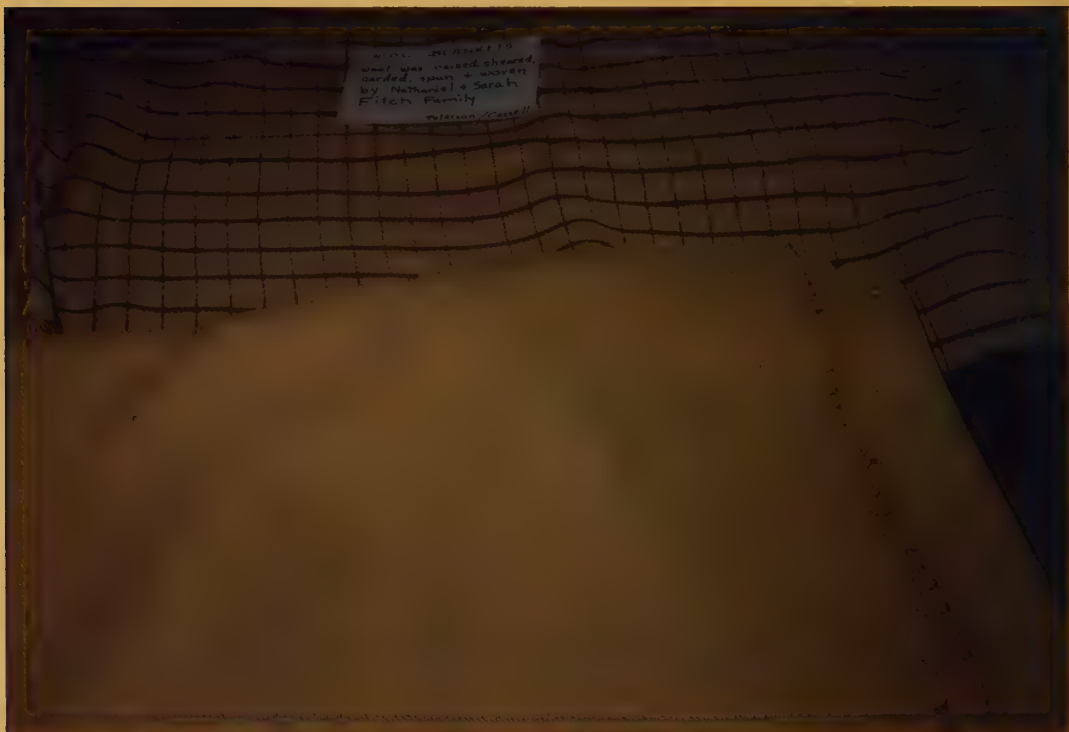


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Jenny Fitch's College graduation dress
Hillsdale College, 1870



"Wool Blankets Raised, sheared, carded,
spun & woven by Nathaniel & Sarah Fitch Family"



Ralph Dove

WARREN Fitch



Robert

KEVAN DAVIS





Sandra Cassell Peterson



"Smile!"



Bill lining us up for group photos



An old Fitch Flag but not the one shown
in old reunion photos.



Sarah's sewing machine



Phyllis and Richard Fitch



Elaine + Rick Fitch

Oldest, Jake Kell



Ann Lyon



Richard Fitch

Phyllis Fitch

Maxine Ober



The 1999 Fitch Family Reunion Photo at Shoaff Park, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Fitch Kin,

I hope that you enjoyed the Reunion as much as I did. We have our local organizers, Betty, Warren, and Phyllis Fitch, to thank for putting it all together for the rest of us.

I was too busy to take many photos, so I'd appreciate receiving copies of your reunion photos for the family albums. Identify who is in the each photo, if you can. Also, I saw an old album and an old photo with a large flag in the background, both of which I'd like to borrow and rephotograph.

If you volunteered to be your branch's representative for keeping up with births, address changes, etc., would you drop me a note to that effect?

Bill Casseli 781-862-6172 & casseliw@aol.com

Bill Cassell
9 Independence Avenue
Lexington, MA 02421



The Family of:

Mr. Warren J. Fitch
14615 Auburn Rd
Fort Wayne, IN 46845



Nathaniel & Sarah DeLong Fitch

Family Reunion Newsletter

Winter 2000

1999 Reunion Draws 135 Kin

The 88th Fitch Reunion, which was held in Fort Wayne, Indiana, on July 16, 17 and 18, was the largest gathering ever of Nathaniel and Sarah Fitch's descendants.

Fitch relatives came from all over the country, representing all but one of Nathaniel and Sarah's children who had families and accounting for almost 10% of their living relatives.

While it was thought that this might be the last Fitch Reunion, the attendees unanimously agreed that another Reunion should be held in five years, in the summer of 2004 in Fort Wayne.

**More on the 1999 Fitch
Reunion on pages 3 - 5**



Jennie Fitch Beers' great granddaughter, Sandra Peterson, welcomes her kin to the 1999 Fitch Family Reunion basket luncheon at River Lodge in Shoaff Park.

Huntertown's Heritage Days

Nathaniel and Sarah Recreated

The Huntertown Historical Society justifiably claimed success on the many events that they hosted for the first ever Huntertown Heritage Days Festival, held August 5-8, 1999. There was a parade, tours of historic homes, a photo gallery of old photos, antique displays and old-fashioned trolley rides.

Two specific events were Fitch-related. On Sun-
See Heritage Days - Page 6



Richard Fitch as he portrayed his great grandfather, Nathaniel Fitch, in a Huntertown's Heritage Days' play.

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1999 Fitch Family Reunion

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Bill Cassell and Betty and Warren Fitch, organizers of the 1999 Fitch Family Reunion, greet out-of-town relatives at the Fort Wayne Courtyard Marriott on Friday evening before the Reunion. This informal gathering in the Auburn Room provided additional opportunities for Fitch kin to get acquainted and to examine the family photo and document albums. On Sunday morning a number of the Fitch cousins had a prolonged breakfast together in the Marriott's dining room.

The 88th Fitch Family Reunion

Family reunions don't just happen. A great deal of planning and personal effort goes into making them happen. We have Betty and Warren Fitch to thank for the Fitch Family Reunions in 1992, 1994 and 1999. Without their tireless efforts to locate and reserve appropriate reunion sites and to gather all the materials needed for the Saturday meetings, we wouldn't have had these reunions. There is simply no substitute for this local, hands-on commitment, and we owe them an enormous "thank you."

The 88th Fitch Family Reunion was held in Fort Wayne, Indiana, on July 16, 17 and 18, 1999.

Many of the out-of-town kin stayed at the Marriott Courtyard, where an informal gathering was held in the Auburn Room on Friday, July 16. A couple dozen family members gathered there to chat, read and browse.

Binders of family documents, which had been collected and preserved by Sister M. Alma Louise (Mary Louise Fitch), and all of the family photo albums, which were prepared by Bill Cassell, were laid out for perusal. Some 500 photographs have been accumulated, some of which are over 100 years old. A copy of the Fitch family tree stretched over many yards of wall space.

Late on Saturday morning, Betty and Warren led a small task force of volunteers to River Lodge in Shoaff Park, where they set up the lodge for the traditional basket luncheon. Tables and chairs were moved about to prepare for the expected 100-plus guests. Easels, built by Warren, were set up with family materials, photos, and correspondence from those who could not attend. The binders, photo albums, and the family tree were laid out, and space was allocated for memorabilia that our kin was expected to bring.

Shortly after 11:00 AM our kin began to arrive in numbers that exceeded our expectations. A final head count, and we think that we may have missed a few late arri-

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Our Very Special Thanks to:

Alice & Jerry Deck	Vicki & Mark Russell
Anne Shirk Nobis	Robert Beers
Sue Ann Fitch	John L. Stratton
Richard & Diane Beers	Helen Silha
Michael & Cynthia Fitch	Ellen & Dennis Adams
Barbara Hulsizer	Mary Belle Brogren
Sara Liggett	Elizabeth Newell
Larry Ozanne	Hazel Hardwick
Betty Richards	Francia Mann
Bob & Fran Ozanne	June Snyder
Joan G. Ewing	Phyllis Brown
Elaine & Vincent Kirbach	Richard & Phyllis Fitch
Bill & Phyllis Fitch	Ann Girard
Gail & Jim Johnston	Charlotte Wuepper
Helen & Robert Florsheim	Jon Oakley Pearson
Annetta & Mikel Ropp	John W. Pearson
Brent D. Fitch	Danford M. McComb
Mary Baird	Marjorie Fitch Shirk
Susan Spangler	
Joan Dove	and
Dena Moudy Horne	
William D. Fitch	Many, many Others

Without their generous financial support of the Newsletter, we would be hard pressed to continue its annual publication and distribution to the 400 families descended from Nathaniel and Sarah Fitch.

Write, call, or email me with your Fitch family news, photos and stories. I'll dupe the photos and return the originals. Keep our address files up-to-date!!

Bill Cassell
9 Independence Avenue
Lexington, MA 02421

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FAX: 781-862-5319
email: cassellcw@aol.com

vals was 135. Soon, the food tables were buried under an avalanche of salads, pasta, chicken, breads, and desserts.

Once again, Carolyn Davis' prediction was proven to be correct: "Don't worry about figuring out who will bring what to the lunch. It always works out just fine. It's a Fitch tradition."

After an invocation by Dave Furlough and lunch, the requisite "all-you-can-eat ice cream" was served, in memory of Mel Mason, Ida Fitch's husband. The family consumed nearly seven gallons of ice cream, with butter pecan being the favorite flavor.

The Reunion meeting was convened by Bill Cassell, who welcomed all the Fitches to the Reunion. A list of kin who had passed away since 1994 was read and amended, and note was made of those who could not attend but who had written to Betty. This correspondence, along with accompanying family photos, was posted.

The family elders were asked to stand and be recognized. Jake Kell, Mathias Fitch's grandson, claimed the honor of being the oldest Fitch descendant in attendance, having been born in 1904.

Betty Fitch, who has been doing some heavy duty genealogical research on the family, noted that copies of the genealogy of the DeLong family were now available. Nathaniel Fitch's wife was Sarah Elizabeth DeLong. She also spoke about the research that she had been doing to try to pin down Nathaniel's ancestors and from which of the early American Fitch brothers we are descended. (More on Betty's research appears elsewhere in this newsletter.)

Bill then recalled how he had been searching for the Fitch Flag, an American flag which had been sewn by Nathaniel and Sarah's daughters during the Civil War and that appeared in a number of old Reunion photos. The last mention of the flag was in the 1950's.

Alice Fitch Deck had recently located a flag among her family's memorabilia that we thought might be the missing flag. Alas, it had 44 original stars, plus one added later, which dated its origin to the 1890's. In any case, this family flag was laid out for all to see, along with another Fitch flag that was curiously one-sided (probably as a wall hanging).

The future of the Fitch Reunions was discussed, and it was decided that we would meet again in five years. Bill said that there would be at least one more Fitch Newsletter but that he was running out of Fitch stories and old photos. He mentioned that it was probably time to focus on the generations after Nathaniel's children, noting Dick Houser's stories about his parents as an example of what would be appreciated.

Another problem with the newsletter was keeping up with the vital statistics and address changes. It was suggested that each branch of Nathaniel's family (e.g. Perry, Mathias) select an individual to chase down births, marriages, etc. and new addresses. These representatives could also help in generating stories and collecting family photos.

Bill also noted that financing the newsletters was

becoming a problem, as the Fitch Fund would be in a deficit position after the next newsletter. The hat was passed for contributions, as it has been at all preceding Reunions, and our kin solved the financial problem for the near future. (See the Treasurer's Report)

The future of the family records, photos and artifacts that are in Bill's possession were discussed. While he hopes to have picked up some longevity genes similar to Jake Kell's, he is hoping to hear from some younger members of the family who are interested in our family's history, so that the records, etc. can be passed along at some point in the future.

Bill has rephotographed almost all of the family photos that he has or has been loaned on black and white film. These negatives are the most stable graphic media known, so our photographic history is very secure. He is very interested in getting copies of these photographs into the hands of other interested Fitches.

Family members then identified where they had come from. Many, of course, came from the Fort Wayne area. Others came from more distant locales, including California, Illinois, Kansas, Washington, Minnesota, Michigan, Virginia, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Arizona, Florida, Tennessee, Oregon, and Massachusetts.

The descendants of Nathaniel's children stood by family and were recognized with warm applause. All but Sarah Elizabeth Stratton's family was represented. Bill indicated that a Fitch descendant is defined as anyone who joins the family via birth, marriage or adoption. As each family was introduced, Bill shared a bit of each progenitor's background.

Perry was the oldest, born in 1842. He was the first to be married at the Fitch Homestead and ran the family's saw and carding mills for many years.

Mathias is easily picked out in old photos, as he had a wandering eye, which made him look cross-eyed. Even so, he was known as an excellent marksman.

Nathaniel sent Jennie to Hillsdale College, from which she graduated in 1870. He expected her to return to the Homestead and teach the township's children. Jennie did so for one summer and then lit out for the big city of Wabash, where she met her husband.

Charles moved to Minnesota, where he lived the remainder of his life. His son, Charles Oakley Fitch, wrote a fascinating autobiography, of which we have a copy.

Amos was a farmer in DeKalb County, where he built a beautiful brick farmhouse that was the site of a couple of Fitch Reunions and is still occupied by his descendants.

Fitelia was a twin. She can be recognized in old photos by her predisposition to show only the left side of her face. (See photo on page 4)

Francelia or Frank was the other twin. They just don't make good names like that any more, do they? Was any descendant named "Francelia"? Apparently, Francelia Fitch, the great granddaughter of David Nathaniel Fitch was named after Francelia.

Harvey attended many Reunions, and you can

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actually watch him age in the many photos taken at the Reunions.

Sarah Elizabeth was not represented at the Reunion by any descendants, but "Sarah" and even "Sarah Elizabeth" are very common family names.

Allen had no children, but he was involved with Charles in the stockyards of South St. Paul, Minnesota.

Ida also had no children. Ida married Mel Mason, who is remembered at Reunions for two things: First, he often contributed the ice cream, even during the Depression. Uncle Mel was a dentist and had some money, even in hard times, since people had to get their teeth fixed. Second, as he aged, he was known to wander off at Reunions, so a teenager was assigned to keep track of him.

Emma married James Hartzell but did not have any children.

David Nathaniel was the youngest child of Nathaniel and Sarah. What did they call the unexpected child born late in a marriage...a love child, oops, a surprise? Well, David was a surprise. Sarah was 46 and had been having children since 1842, when she learned that she was pregnant with David in 1864. Sarah probably holds the family record for being pregnant: 126 months in 24 years.

At a Reunion years later one of her older daughters recalled that Sarah, upon learning of her 14th pregnancy with David (there were the twins), went out into the backyard, swung on the clothesline, and uttered, "I'm not sure that I can go through this again." But she did.

And we are grateful that she did, for David's family has been very active in supporting our Reunions right up to the present. David went to the University of Chicago and became both a veterinarian and a dentist.

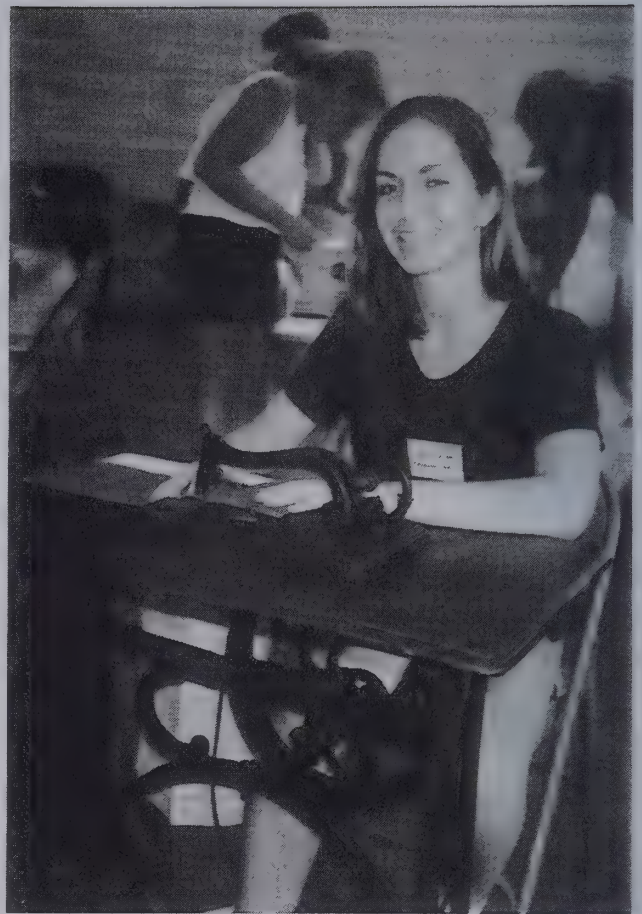
Helen Silha, David's granddaughter, mentioned that Nathaniel and his brother Giles were both blacksmiths back in Pennsylvania. As there was not enough work for both of them, it is said that they flipped a coin to see who would go west. We're not sure who won the toss, but it was Nathaniel who headed west to Indiana.

Ann Girard, Charles Fitch's great granddaughter and a recently retired teacher, had recently found her grandmother's teaching certificate, and she wondered how many other teachers there were in the family. Nathaniel had been committed to education and had been instrumental in setting up the Perry Center Seminary before the Civil War.

A question was asked about the Fitch connection to the Daughters of the American Revolution. Bill knew that his mother had been a member of the DAR but wasn't sure that there was adequate documentation in our files for membership today.

Maggie Vegeler inquired about the status of the Fitch Homestead, which is now owned by Irving Gravel Company. Others expressed interest in finding a way to have the Homestead preserved and returned to Fitch family ownership. The big question is "How?"

The meeting was adjourned, and the descendant families gathered outside for group photographs.



Trish Snyder, a great, great granddaughter of Francelia Fitch Fair operates Sarah DeLong Fitch's treadle sewing machine at the Reunion.



Trish's great, great grandmother, Francelia Fitch Fair (standing) with her twin Fitelia Fitch Fair.

Fitch Flag

We've been looking for the Fitch flag that was sewed by Nathaniel's daughters during the Civil War for years (upper left photo).

Alice Fitch Deck thought that she might have found it when she discovered the flag that is being displayed at the Reunion (middle left photo).

Alas, it was a later Fitch flag which, based on its stars, was made between 1890 and 1896. A 45th star was stitched on the flag when Utah was admitted to the Union in 1896. A Civil War flag would have had 34, 35 or 36 stars. A one-sided flag was also displayed at the Reunion.

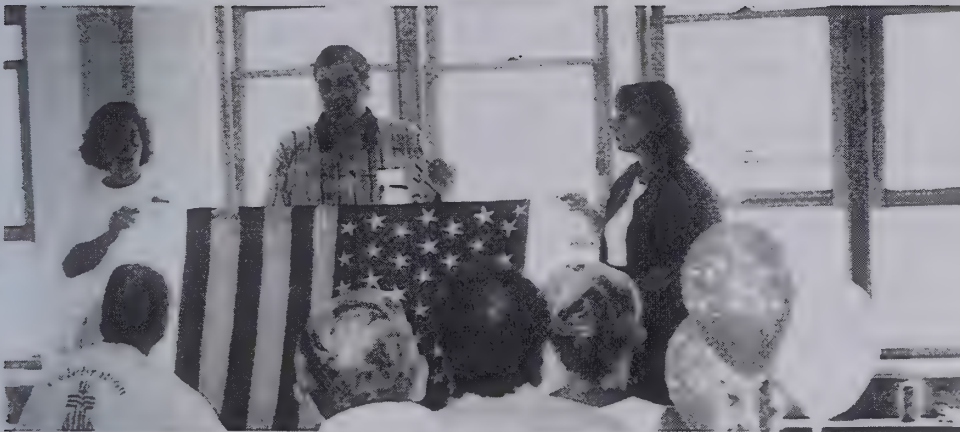
Phyllis Brown says that she saw the old Fitch flag when she was about 10 years old at reunions that were held in an old church building that her grandfather Harvey Fitch owned. Hanging it was very difficult, as it was so big (8' by 12'?) and was falling apart even then. She believes that it was made of wool.

According to Phyllis, in the 1930's Nina Fitch Emrick, Harvey's daughter, gave the flag to Helen Fitch Hawver, who offered it to the Sweeney Homestead Museum. The Museum stated that it was too large and had deteriorated too much for them to handle.

While the flag was mentioned in Reunion minutes in the 1950's, given its fragile state more than 60 years ago, it is almost certain that the old Fitch flag is no more.

Having said that, if you happen upon a very old, very large, very sad American flag among your family memorabilia, let me know.

Fitch kin examine albums of old Fitch photos at the Reunion. (lower left photo)



day afternoon a Nathaniel Fitch "playlet" was performed. Written by Jennie McComb, a neighbor of Rick and Elaine Fitch, the 20-minute play faithfully recreated a number of events from Nathaniel and Sarah's lives, including how they met, which is a favorite Fitch story.

Nathaniel had a log hut near the Fairs' home in Perry Township. His oxen strayed away, and he went to the Fairs' to hunt for them. There he first saw Sarah. Soon thereafter, he went to the Fairs' door, stated that he was looking for a wife, and inquired if there were any single women there. Christina Fair, Sarah's married sister, replied that her sister wasn't married and called Sarah to the door. Sarah looked Nathaniel over and said, "Well, I'll take him."

Betty and Warren Fitch made a video of the performance, in which Richard Fitch played the role of Nathaniel. The videotape is now part of our family documents.

The other Fitch connection at Heritage Days was the Historic Homes "2000" Millennium Calendar that was produced and sold by the Huntertown Historical Society. Each month was illustrated with a painting of a historic Huntertown home. Margaret Cromwell painted a watercolor of the Fitch Homestead for July 2000. The original paintings were auctioned off, with one of Jake Kell's grandparents purchasing the Fitch Homestead original.



L-R (front) Stella Gloyd, Gladys Fitch and Margie Beers; (2nd) Alice and Emma Fitch Hartzell; (rear) Allen Hartzell and an unidentified woman. (c. late 1890's)

Fitch Family Treasurer's Report

One of the Fitch "myths" that recurs in our family stories is that when there is a family need, someone always, sometimes mysteriously, steps forward. I had projected that the Fitch Fund would be in the red after the post-Reunion Newsletter had been printed and mailed, and I said so at the Reunion. Thanks to the generosity of many Fitch "someones", including many anonymous donors at the Reunion, we have the funds to continue collecting and sharing our family history.

Jennie Fitch Beers' oldest son Kenneth tells one such story: "There were many times when there was not even a five cent piece in our house. One morning Father (a Methodist minister in Western Pennsylvania) had made a specific plea for help from our Heavenly Father, for food for his family. Roy (Kenneth's brother) and I were repairing a wooden sidewalk the following morning. The boards we were cutting were weather-warped oak, hard as iron.

"Down this uneven and irregular sample of our carpentering staggered the town drunkard with a sack of flour on his shoulder. He was bringing it to the parsonage. Surely the Lord uses strange vehicles for answering some prayers. Never before and perhaps never again did the man carrying that answer to prayer ever tread this walk."

Beginning Balance 2/18/98	\$1,181.62
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Income Since 2/18/99

Contributions from Fitch kin

Prior to the Reunion	\$1,126.00
Reunion Fees & Pass-the-Hat	\$1,796.00
Other Reunion Gifts	\$ 435.00

Available Funds	\$4,538.62
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Expenses

Spring 1998 Newsletter	\$ 712.72
Reunion Postcards	\$ 273.58
Reunion Invitations	\$ 191.85

Reunion Expenses

Photography Supplies & Prints	\$ 79.89
River Lodge Reservation Fee	\$ 166.00
Name Tags, Forms, etc.	\$ 22.68
Binders, Sheet Protectors	\$ 105.76
Shipping Documents/Albums	\$ 102.59
Luncheon Materials & Food	\$ 237.25

Post-Reunion Expenses

Historic Homes Calendars	\$ 30.00
Post-Reunion Postcard	\$ 47.68
Photo Supplies & Prints	\$ 76.45

Total Expenses	\$2,046.45
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Ending Balance 2/5/00	\$2,492.17
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Projected Expenses

Winter 2000 Newsletter	\$1,000.00
Projected Balance after this Newsletter	\$1,492.17

Nathaniel's Ancestors

by Betty Fitch

I am proposing an alternate genealogy for the Nathaniel and Sarah DeLong Fitch family of Allen County, Indiana. The genealogy published in our Fitch Family History Book in 1972 does not appear to mesh with more recent research on the American Fitches, and another Fitch line appears to be much more probable for our Nathaniel.

The genealogy in our Fitch Family History Book goes as follows:

Rev. James Fitch (1622-1702) & Priscilla Mason
Capt. John Fitch (1667-1743) & Elizabeth Waterman
Capt. John Fitch II (1705-1760) & Alice Fitch
John Fitch III (1732-1755) & Mercy Lathrop
John Fitch IV (1756- 1816) & 2 unnamed wives
Nathaniel Fitch, Sr. (1782-1839) & Sarah Keeler
Nathaniel Fitch (1806-1877) & Sarah DeLong

In our 1972 genealogy, it is stated that there was no authentic record of John Fitch's wife's name or of his marriage and that tradition said that he had married twice. His second wife was known only as Mary. He assigned his title to a grant of land to his sons, Gideon and Nathaniel, who were half-brothers. The assignment is on file at the Pennsylvania State Capitol in Harrisburg, PA, and signed with a mark, as he could not write.

This grant had been given to Connecticut settlers and stockholders of the Connecticut Company after they were evicted from their original lands in Wyoming Valley after the Pennamite Wars. By an act of the Pennsylvania Legislature in 1799, known as the Pennamite Act, an equal amount of land north of the Lackawanna River was granted to the disposed holders. This land was not nearly so good, and it was outside the hard coal belt.

John Fitch IV was so put out that he refused to ever live on the land given to him. Giving it to his two sons, Gideon and Nathaniel, he went back to Connecticut, where he died in 1815 in Ridgefield, CT.

Since our book was published, John Townsend Fitch from the Rev. James Fitch family has written several well-researched and comprehensive books about the Fitch family. His third book, *The First Five Generations*, was about the five generations after Rev. James Fitch. In this book he carries down the "Johns" from whom Nathaniel is supposedly descended.

He provides the following, well-documented information about the John Fitch IV who was the great, great grandson of Rev. James Fitch. John Fitch IV was born in Canterbury, Windham County, CT, on January 11, 1756. He resided and died in Windham on June 22, 1807, "in the 52nd year of his age." On February 24, 1780, he married Clarissa Wales, who was born on June 22, 1760, and died in Windham on October 15, 1826, "in the 67th year of her age." After John died, Clarissa married Waterman Clift in

1811. Both John and Clarissa are buried in Windham Main Cemetery.

John Fitch IV was a tavern keeper, as his father had been, and a photo of an entry in the record book, dated 1798, shows that he was in the tavern business in Windham at that time. John and Clarissa had four children: James, Col. John, Jr., Lucius and Clarissa.

There are a number of discrepancies between our 1972 description of John Fitch IV and that of John Townsend Fitch. The dates of death do not match. Our "John" had two wives who were unnamed, while Rev. James Fitch's descendant's only wife is well-documented. The latter's children are similarly well-documented and do not include either Gideon or Nathaniel.

Furthermore, we know that our "John" was listed on the 1790 and 1810 censuses in Pennsylvania, while Rev. James Fitch's descendant was operating a tavern in Connecticut at this time. Moreover, the latter John died in 1807, so he could not have been listed on a census in 1810.

Finally, Gideon Fitch, Nathaniel Sr.'s brother was born in 1771, as evidenced by his gravestone in Roberts Cemetery. If Rev. James Fitch's great, great grandson had been Gideon's father, John Fitch IV would have been only 15 years old at Gideon's birth, which is highly unlikely.

Clearly, we are not descended from Rev. James Fitch through his great, great grandson, John Fitch IV. After much study and correspondence with other Fitch family members, there is an alternative genealogy to put forth. This genealogy has a few "rough" places, and we are still working on them. However, the most probable line for our Nathaniel is the line of descent from Thomas Fitch, brother of Rev. James Fitch.

This alternate genealogy looks like this:

Thomas Fitch (1612-1704) & Anne Stacie
John Fitch (1633- ?) & Rebecca Lindall
Nathaniel Fitch (1682-1743) & Elizabeth ?
John Fitch II (c. 1710-1748) & Elizabeth Beers
John Fitch III (c. 1740-after 1810) & Elizabeth Lockwood
& Mary ?
Nathaniel Fitch, Sr. (1782-1839) & Sarah Keeler
Nathaniel Fitch (1806-1877) & Sarah DeLong

Thomas Fitch, Sr., father of Rev. James Fitch, Thomas Fitch, Joseph Fitch and Samuel Fitch, died in England in 1632, as stated in our present genealogy. Rev. James came to America in 1638, and the other brothers followed. They first show up in the records about 1650, and it is possible that they came about that time. Another brother, Nathaniel, died in England in 1648, and they may have come after his death, bringing their mother with them.

Thomas Fitch married Anne Stacie in England. He stated that the Civil War in England at that time cost him much of his fortune and that it took about all he had to get his family over to America. They were of Puritan stock.

His sons, Thomas Fitch, Jr., and John Fitch, and his daughters lived with him in Norwalk, of which he was a founder. John was born in 1633 in Bocking, England. He

married Rebecca Lindall and had two sons, John who was born in 1677 and Nathaniel who was born in 1682.

Nathaniel Fitch had three wives, the first of whom was the mother of his children. At this time we believe her name to be Elizabeth, but we have no maiden name. Her name has been found on a land transfer on which can be found both their signatures. Their children were John II, Lindall, Elizabeth, Abigail and Mary.

John Fitch II was apparently born in the 1710-1716 era. He married Elizabeth Beers, and they had four children, according to Elizabeth's will and various land records. The children were Nathaniel, who died in 1766, John, Elizabeth, who married David King, and Susannah.

It is this John Fitch III, born about 1740 and the great, great grandson of Thomas Fitch, who was most probably the father of Gideon and Nathaniel Fitch, Sr., and the grandfather of our Nathaniel Fitch. John Fitch III may have married Elizabeth Lockwood in 1766.

There are several land transactions and some wills to determine that this family is correct and that the grandmother of John Fitch III's children is Elizabeth (Beers) Fitch Ellis. (After John's death, she married Henry Ellis.) We have a copy of her actual handwritten will of 1777. In it she names the children of John Fitch III as: John Fitch, Jr., Gideon Fitch and Susannah Fitch. The children of her daughter, Elizabeth Fitch King, are given as Nathaniel Fitch King, Elizabeth King and Sarah King. She also states that John Fitch is her son and the father of the Fitch children mentioned in her will.

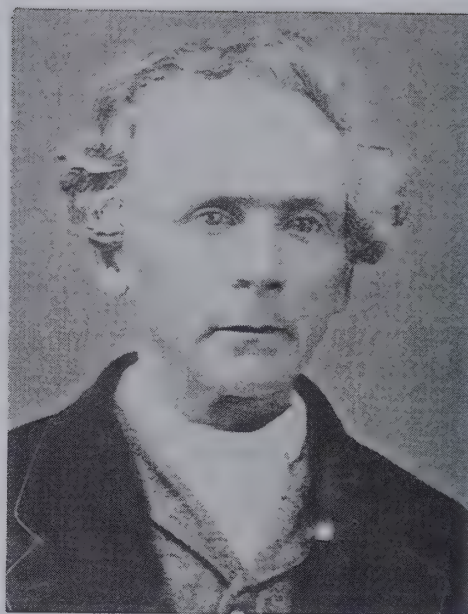
As Elizabeth's will was written in 1777, before Nathaniel Fitch, Sr., was born in 1782, Nathaniel's name does not appear in the will. John Fitch III's first wife, Elizabeth (Lockwood) Fitch died before 1783, as she is listed as deceased in her father's (John Lockwood) will.

Most of the neighbors and friends of the John Fitch III's family in Pennsylvania were from the Norwalk, CT, area. We find the family names fit well. The name Gideon could have come from the Lockwood family, as Elizabeth Lockwood had a brother named Gideon. Susannah comes down through both the Fitch and Beers lines.

John Fitch III, whose children were John, Jr., Gideon and Susannah, sold out his homestead in Fairfield, Norwalk, CT, about 1786, and we hear no more about him in the land records there. Our "John Fitch" shows up in the 1790 census of Pennsylvania, and the history of Wyoming County, PA, states that he settled there in 1788 with David Morehouse. David King is also there in the 1800 census, and David's name is listed with John's in an early list of Wyoming County settlers.

There are still a couple of possibilities of other genealogies, but so far none of them have been traced to our Pennsylvania John Fitch. We continue to work on all possibilities, but we have concluded at this time that the link to Rev. James Fitch is incorrect.

Being part of the Thomas Fitch family isn't too bad. Thomas was a founder of Norwalk, CT, and the great grandfather of Thomas Fitch IV, who was governor of the Colony of Connecticut from 1754 to 1766.



"Our" Nathaniel Fitch, who was born in 1806 and married Sarah DeLong in 1840. Nathaniel and Sarah had 15 children, 10 of whom produced descendants that still gather for family reunions in Fort Wayne, IN.

Our Fitches and the DAR

Over the years a few descendants of Nathaniel and Sarah DeLong Fitch have inquired about our family's connections to individuals who had served in the Revolutionary Army, with thoughts of joining the Daughters of the American Revolution.

According to the 1972 Fitch Family History Book, our connection to the Revolution is Sarah Keeler, who married Nathaniel Fitch, Sr. "Sarah was born in Ridgefield, CT, on June 26, 1785. She was the daughter of Paul Keeler, Jr. who was born on April 9, 1756 and Sarah Burt Cornwall. Her parents were married in Ridgefield, CT, on February 7, 1775. Paul Keeler, Jr. was a trumpeter in the Revolutionary Army in Sheldon's Light Horse Brigade from the state of Connecticut."

At the 1999 Reunion Pamela Zorger passed along a copy of a 1995 letter from the DAR's head genealogist that read, in part, "I am happy that you found your great-aunt's number and a copy of her application paper. We do not have Paul Keeler, Jr. as a proven ancestor, and I do not find him in *Connecticut Men in the Revolution*." The genealogist proceeds to list three Nathaniel Fitch's who are listed in *Connecticut Men*, but none of them appear to be in our branch of the Fitch family.

Given that Paul Keeler, Jr.'s affiliation to a specific Revolutionary unit is apparently known, this is troublesome information. In the past a number of Nathaniel's descendants were DAR members, but it may be that more stringent documentation is now required for membership.

If you have any information on our family's DAR connection, please contact Bill Cassell.

Sarah DeLong's Family

Up until last year, we knew relatively little about the DeLong family from which Sarah, Nathaniel Fitch's wife, was descended. Stories told at reunions by Sarah's children indicated that Sarah had been born and raised near Dayton, OH. Her father was supposedly from Germany and, while educated, did not speak English. As a child, Sarah received no formal schooling due to the German attitude about educating women. It was only later in life that she learned to read and write a little.



Sarah DeLong Fitch, wife of Nathaniel Fitch and daughter of George and Elizabeth Statler DeLong of Bethel Township, Miami County, Ohio.

We knew that she had a sister, Christina DeLong, who had married a Fair and lived in DeKalb County, IN, not too distant from Nathaniel Fitch's log hut. It was at Christina Fair's home that Sarah and Nathaniel met in 1840. Sarah's children recalled that her father was "unkind" to her, but there are no details. When a neighbor family was heading west, Sarah ran away from home at daybreak and joined them. She went with them to Christina's place in Indiana. Sarah worked for Christina, then went to Auburn, IN, where she worked in a tavern. Sarah then worked for the Vandolah family, where she cooked for eight men, cared for their mother and a baby, made a garden, carried water up a hill and washed clothes...all for 50 cents a week.

The only other DeLong that is mentioned in Fitch family stories is her sister, Henrietta DeLong Young, who sent a box of baby clothes, including a little green jacket with buttons, when Sarah's last child was born. That child, David Nathaniel Fitch, was named after Henrietta's husband, David Young.

Thanks to Betty Fitch's research, we now have



David and Henrietta DeLong Young, Sarah DeLong Fitch's sister. Sarah's youngest son, David Nathaniel Fitch was named after David Young.

more information on the DeLong family.

Sarah's great grandfather was Abraham DeLong, who was born between 1710 and 1711, in Germany or in New York. Perhaps around 1730 he married Catherine ____ and settled in Northampton County (now Lehigh County), PA. Abraham was apparently a farmer. He had at least 8 children and died there about 1756. His wife subsequently married Nicholaus Fischer and had 6 more children.

Abraham's second child, Mathias or Matthew, was born around 1735-37 in Northampton County, PA. A carpenter, he married Maria Margaretta ____ (possibly Falck) and lived in Northampton County, PA, where he served in the 6th Company, Northampton County Militia in the 1780's. He had 5 children and died in 1785.

Mathias' fourth child, Johann George, who was called George, was born around 1772. His whereabouts was unknown until 1805 when he took land at the Cincinnati Land office as George DeLong, although he may have been with his brother Johann Joseph in Botetourt County, VA. He apparently did not move to Ohio at that time.

Around 1806 George married Elizabeth Statler of Virginia, and land records indicate that he was in Bethel Township, Miami County, OH by 1813. He and Elizabeth had 14 children, including our Sarah Elizabeth DeLong. A farmer, he died in 1836 and is buried in the Bethel German Reformed Church Cemetery in Bethel Township, Miami County, OH.

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George DeLong's wife Elizabeth (he may have had an earlier wife also) is said to have been the daughter of George Statler, who fought in the War of 1812, but so far this is untraceable. Elizabeth lived to be 84 and died in Tippicanoe, OH, in 1872. Her tombstone reads:

*Her toils are over, the work is done
and she is fully blest.
She fought the fight, the victory won
and entered into rest.*

Sarah and Nathaniel Fitch inherited some of George's land when Elizabeth died, which was sold in 1872 and 1874. This may be the inheritance that Sarah used to buy a buggy, as recounted in family stories.

Betty has created a family tree that details Sarah Elizabeth DeLong Fitch's brothers and sisters, as well as their descendants. Perhaps the most interesting fact is that our Sarah was very likely a twin! Her sister died on February 29, 1897, and her gravestone states that she died at age 78, years, 8 months, 26 days. If so, that would make her birthdate (May 25, 1818) very close to Sarah's birthdate (May 29, 1818). One date may be just a few days off.

Sarah's brothers and sisters were:

George DeLong, Jr. (1807-1843) & Mary Ann Rudy
William DeLong (1840-1886) & Elizabeth Ann Martin
Christina DeLong (1816-?) & Abraham Fair
Ellen DeLong (1818-1897) & John Surface
Sarah Elizabeth DeLong (1818-1908) & Nathaniel Fitch
Son of DeLong (1819-?)
Washington DeLong (1823-1877) & Mary Catherine Wimer
David DeLong (1824-1850) & Martha Martin
Eliza DeLong (1825-1912) & John Ross
Abraham DeLong (1827-1872)
Henrietta DeLong (1830-?) & David D. Young
Isaac DeLong (1832-1863/64) & Martha Sullivan
Jefferson DeLong (1835-1894)
Edward DeLong (1836-1908)

There is a lot of speculation about George DeLong, Jr. At first we thought that he was the one who came to Indiana, but it looks like that was George Washington DeLong. George Jr.'s will was probated in 1843 and must have been written before his father's death in 1836. His heirs were his father, mother and brothers William, Washington, David and Abraham. The sisters and other brothers were omitted. The family story about Sarah having some trouble with her brother may tie into this omission.

Sarah's sister, Christina DeLong Fair, was a pioneer in Dekalb County, IN, with her husband, Abraham Fair, arriving about 1835-36. Christina must have remarried after Abraham died, as her name was listed as Christina Thayer of Auburn, IN in her mother's will in 1872.

The History of DeKalb County by Martin tells of the pioneers of Butler County, which included Abraham Fair. "The year 1835 witnessed their permanent settlement, although they came in the fall previous with a wagon and

two spans of horses and built their cabins. They had to cut their own road from Squire Caswell's in Allen County, beyond Hometown, five miles to the place where they settled, and also a considerable part of the way from Fort Wayne, as the track was too narrow and crooked for a four horse team.

"Abraham Fair, one of the eight first settlers who came in October, 1834, is our informant. 'Our plan was to come out, build cabins, make a little beginning and then return to our old homes in Montgomery County, Ohio (the Fairs may well have been from Montgomery County, but George DeLong, was from Miami County, which is just across the two county lines) to winter and bring on the family in the spring. We brought in provisions enough to last until our return, excepting meat, calculating to kill deer enough to supply that. In this, however, we were mistaken. We found deer quite scarce in those woods that fall. One day Andrew Surface found a hollow tree filled with honey, into which a bear had gnawed a hole and helped himself to as much as he wanted. On cutting the tree we found what was left of the Bruins's dinner, six gallons of honey. The first fair day after this, we found two bee trees, cut them and took the honey. We eight had all the honey we wanted for 20 days (and had little to eat except bread and honey) and on returning to Ohio, we had 21 gallons of strained honey left.

"I was 22 years of age when I moved into the township 24 years ago. I weighed 160 pounds, and my wife, 140. Now (1859) I weigh 210 and my wife 200! We have had 11 children born in this township and 9 are still living. In 24 years I have not lost as many hours by sickness. I am now six feet four and a half inches high, and there never has been cleared land enough in DeKalb County to throw me down on. I still live on the farm where I first settled and have never moved but once, from one part of my farm to another."

The marriage date of Ellen DeLong and John Surface is uncertain, but their first child Henrietta appears to have been born about 1842. Since John's story is Ellen's story, it merits telling, as written in the DeKalb County, IN History:

"The story of John Surfus should receive more detailed narration than can be accorded here, but however, briefly, it must be given, for in counting over the old pioneers it might be easy to overlook some who did not come with a flourish of axes, let us say, or at least with a fair assortment of worldly implements, education, money, and similar plenishings, with which to subdue the wilds and make themselves fairly comfortable while they did this.

"John Surfus did not come with any of these. Hard circumstances landed him in Perry Township, unlettered, penniless, with the care of what was left of his family upon his hands, at the age of 21. The sum of the Surfus worldly goods when they arrived at the wilderness home, may be briefly stated: a yoke of cattle, a table, a chest, set of wooden chairs and an oven. Their first bed was made by boring holes in the log wall of the cabin and setting hewn poles which were then wrapped in elm bark for a mattress.

See DeLongs - Page 11

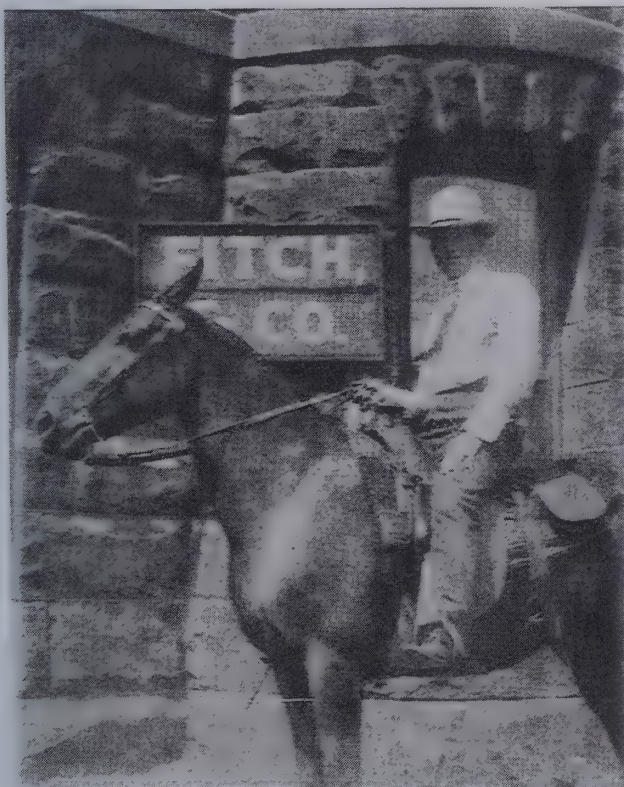
"After nine years of struggle, Mr. Surfus married Ellen DeLong, a brave and faithful woman, who assisted her husband without flagging, and added twelve children, ten of whom survived them to the population of Perry.

"To the careless ear the recital of these struggles may sound dull but to a man who began life with empty hands, what romance there must be in the review of 60 years of toil, as he sits at ease and looks back, across a thousand smiling acres of farmlands, to the rude little cabin with its bed of hickory poles, while in the foreground the smoke of his children's hearthfires feather the landscape like incense. Let posterity doff its hat to the John Surfuses of Pioneer History." To which Betty adds, "And I might add to the wives of such pioneers!!"

Henrietta DeLong and her husband David Young were members of the Lutheran Church. When they were first married, they located in Bethel Township on 35 acres that David bought. Then they lived on her mother's farm in Ohio for six years, after which they moved to Tippicanoe, OH where they were in the grocery business. Finally, they settled on 205 acres of good land.

David Young was 30 years old when he married Henrietta, and they had only four children, not the dozen that most of her sisters had.

Isaac DeLong and his wife Martha were living in Bethel Township in 1860. He died in 1863-1864 and was probably killed in the Civil War. His estate papers list the expense of returning his body from Washington. Their only child, Mary L., who was eight at the time, died childless in 1903.



Allen Fitch at the Stockyard Exchange Building in South St. Paul, MN. (Date Unknown)

- - Now Available - -

The DeLong Genealogy & History

Betty Fitch has a much more detailed DeLong genealogy available for anyone who is interested. Send \$15 to Betty to cover the cost of copying and mailing.

Mrs. Betty Fitch
14615 Auburn Road
Fort Wayne, IN 46845



Harvey Fitch, Nathaniel and Sarah Fitch's ninth child, was born in 1853 and died in 1948. (Date Unknown)



Etta Parker Fitch, Harvey's wife was born in 1859 and died in 1942. She and Harvey had five children.



Four Fitch Generations: L-R: Elizabeth Bowling Winkler, Susan Shirk Bowling, Marjorie Fitch Shirk and Lauren Winkler. Marjorie, a granddaughter of Charles Fitch, is 94 years old.

We're Looking for New and Old Family Photos

Have you got any photos of 3 or more generations of Fitch descendants? Could you send copies to the Newsletter Editor? Thanks.



L-R: Back: Emma (Mrs. Allen) Fitch, May Fitch Harvey, Francelia Fitch Fair, Luann (Mrs. Charles) Fitch and Mabel Fitch Durkee; Front: Charles Fitch, unidentified man and child, Allen Fitch and John Durkee. (Date Unknown)



L-R: The sons of Charles Fitch: Harry, Giles and Charles Oakley Fitch. (Date Unknown)



By far, the oddest family photo so far. David Nathaniel Fitch is in the back row, wearing dungarees and a bandanna. His wife, Belle Fitch, is also in the back row, wearing a white blouse and no hat. Taken around 1900 in Auburn, IN, the photo could be of a costume party or the cast of a play. Note the tigs that most of them are wearing. The "bald wen" with hair locks" of two men are rather unusual, as is the considerable paunch of the derby-sauvage-wearing gentleman at the right. Any ideas what were going on?



One of the teachers in our family was Genevieve Fitch, Charles Oakley Fitch's wife, shown here with her class of 32 children. (Date Unknown)



Grace Fitch, Mathias Fitch's daughter, is the adult standing at the left in this school photo, which leads us to believe that she was a teacher. Can anyone confirm this guess? (Date Unknown)

A Call for Fitch Teachers

Nathaniel Fitch believed that children should be taught to read, write and calculate. In 1856, along with Jacob Kell, George B. Gloyd and Mr. Hilegart, Nathaniel founded the Perry Center Seminary, a wood frame school with two large classrooms on the first floor and six or seven rooms on the second floor where a teacher and some of the boys lived during the week. They hired a teacher to provide lessons from the late fall to the early spring. The "Academy," as it was known, closed during the Civil War, when the teacher and many students enlisted in the Union Army.

Just after the Civil War, Nathaniel sent his oldest daughter, Jennie, to Hillsdale College in Michigan, where she was trained to be a teacher. Nathaniel was quite disappointed when Jennie decided to teach in elsewhere upon her graduation, as his plan had been to have Jennie teach in Perry Township. While teaching in Wabash, Indiana, Jennie met and married Levi Beers, who was also a teacher at that time.

Two of Jennie's children, Bertha and Alice Beers, became teachers, as did two of her grandsons, Bob Beers and Bob Ozanne, three of her great grandchildren, Sue Spangler, Sandra Peterson, and Bill Cassell, and one of her great, great granddaughters, Margie Sherick.

In Charles Fitch's family his daughter-in-law, Genevieve Fitch, and his great granddaughter, Ann Girard, were teachers. From the photo at the left, it appears that Grace Fitch, Mathias Fitch's daughter was a teacher also.

Were there other teachers among Nathaniel's descendants? If you know of any other teachers in the family, please call, e-mail or write to Bill Cassell.

Old-fashioned Classroom Management

Alice Beers, Jennie's youngest daughter, began teaching in Colorado around 1910. One of her early assignments was teaching in a rural one room school where the previous teachers had been run off by a number of large, unruly teenaged boys.

Knowing that they expected to run her off too, when Alice showed up the first day of school in her buggy, she took her long buggy whip into the classroom and leaned it again the chalkboard behind her desk. Without saying a word about her intentions, she intimidated the ruffians and never had to touch the whip.



The descendants of Nathaniel and Sarah DeLong Fitch at the 1999 Fitch Family Reunion at River Lodge in Shoaff Park, Fort Wayne, Indiana.



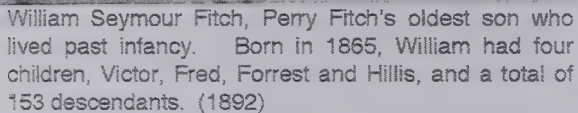
David Nathaniel Fitch's family that attended the 1999 Reunion but was not in the above photo. L-R: Helen Silha, David Reismann, Sarah Davis and Hannah Davis, Alice Deck, John Wuepper, Leah Davis, Jerry Deck, Steve Silha and Charlotte Wuepper.



David Nathaniel Fitch, Nathaniel's youngest son.

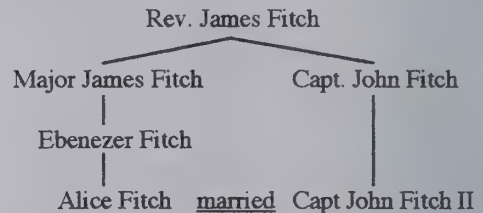
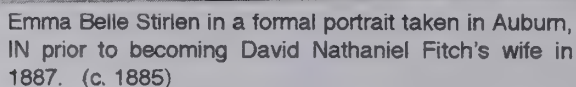


Emma Belle Stirlen Fitch, David Fitch's wife.



At the 1999 Reunion Bill Cassell asked for a volunteer from each family (e.g. Perry's, Mathias', Jennie's) to assist him in keeping track of our family's vital records of births, marriages, deaths, divorces, and mailing addresses. Each representative would be responsible for keeping track of their branch of the Fitch family and forwarding that information to Bill, who keeps everything on a computer program called Family Tree Maker.

A couple of representatives contacted Bill, but he can't find their names among his materials. Would each representative kindly drop him a note or an email, indicating their willingness to help? Thanks. For his address, phone, etc., see page 2.



Major James Fitch and Capt. John Fitch were brothers, although they had different mothers. That means that Capt. John Fitch II married his cousin Ebenezer's daughter. Given other evidence of even first Fitch cousins marrying in early colonial America, this second cousin marriage isn't all that unusual. Today, we would say that they were swimming in the shallow end of the gene pool.

Eunice Balch Fitch	James Walter Moudy
Bernice Strayer Fitch	Donald Lee Stratton
L. David Brogren	Carolyn Kell Davis
Elizabeth L. Fitch	Lucille Ozanne Cassell
Belinda Raub Sloffer	Loren H. Shirk
Kimberly S. Flickinger	Maurine Little Fitch
Elizabeth Fitch Pearson	Jason C. Lyons
Stephen David Fitch II	Kenneth Duane Fitch
James C. MacInnes	Esther Doll Fitch
Leann Cagle Holcomb	John Evan Fitch
Sarah Elizabeth DeBolt	Lucinda M. Fitch
Herman Rawles Moudy	Otto A. Silha

SOME FITCH REUNION FACTS:

Page to also be found in the DeLong book.....

- 1908 Henrietta and David Young and daughter came to the reunion.
This may have been the last time the sisters Sarah and Henrietta
saw each other as in the fall of 1908 Sarah died.
- 1910 David Young and a granddaughter came to the reunion. Says they were
Troy, Ohio.
- 1911 David Young came to the reunion with his granddaughter, Mary
Young.
- 1915 Mr. and Mrs. George Young of Troy came to the Fitch reunion. George
is the son of David and Henrietta (DeLong) Young.
- 1919 Six members of the George Young family of Troy came to the reunion.
- 1931 The Young family from Smithfield, Ohio, came to the Fitch reunion.
(no other identification given)

.....

In the summer of 1923, Mathias Fitch missed the Fitch reunion for the first time. His wife, Frances, had died earlier in the year. And Mathias was so ill that even, son John did not come to the reunion. Mathias died later that year.

Nathaniel & Sarah DeLong Fitch

Family Reunion Newsletter

Winter 2001 - 2002



The Schuyler Fitch family makes a summer fashion statement in about 1908, somewhere in the State of Washington. Schuyler, Mathias Fitch's oldest son, is in the background with the long pole. His children, Rowene, Robert and Merline are at the left, with Merlin behind Robert. Schuyler's wife, Leah, is wearing the suit with the square collar and is seated at the left end of the floating beam.

Students and Teachers

Nathaniel Fitch - A Proponent of Education

Nathaniel Fitch believed in education for his children, as did his wife, Sarah, even though she could not read or write very well. There was an original old log school house on Nathaniel's land in Perry Township, which Perry and the older Fitch children attended. A smooth topped table, flanked by a pair of long benches made of slabs with the flat side up ran the length of the building. Another table and benches were against the wall. The children would recite between the tables. It was a small building and smelled of the frying and cooking that the students and teachers did.

In 1856 Nathaniel and some neighbors, Jacob Kell, George B. Gloyd, and Mr. Hilegart, founded Perry Center Seminary to provide education for the community's children. Nathaniel boarded the masons who built the foundation,

Fitch Teachers - Pg 6

In This Issue:

The Teaching Tradition among the Fitches
Fitchvilles and Fitchburgs Are Everywhere
The Iowa Fitches - Charles Fitch and Family
Learning to Drive...The Hard Way
Paul Keeler, Jr.'s Revolutionary War Records

Fitch Historian passes away

Sister Alma Louise



Sister Alma Louise, CSC, was born Mary Louise Fitch in 1911, the daughter of Mary Alma Urbine and John Parker Fitch, Harvey Fitch's oldest son. She was the Fitch Family historian for many years.

The Fitch family lost a long-term, steadfast supporter on March 28, 2001, when Sister Alma Louise (Mary Louise Fitch) died. She was three days short of being 90 years old.

Mary Louise was born on March 31, 1911, to John Parker Fitch and his wife Mary Alma Urbine on a farm in Huntertown, IN. She and her sister, Etta Philomena, were the only children born to that family. Then Alma's sister-in-law died and left two young daughters, Marjorie and Dorothy Urbine. John and Alma brought them home, and all four girls became very close. In early life, Mary Louise learned the importance of caring for others.

She attended Sacred Heart Academy in Fort Wayne and in 1932 graduated from the school of nursing at St. Joseph's Hospital in Fort Wayne. In September 1932, having been "greatly re-encouraged" by the reception ceremony that August, she applied for entrance to

Mary Louise Fitch - Pg 2

An Editorial Apology and Plea

I apologize for the delay between the last newsletter and this one - almost two years. Two factors transpired to delay publication.

Perhaps the factor with the greatest impact was that I began my teaching career (at age 57) with my own third grade classroom. During the 2000 - 2001 school year, there simply wasn't time for writing and editing a newsletter. My classroom responsibilities absorbed an enormous amount of time, with my family getting whatever was left. When summer vacation came, I spent a month reviewing and reorganizing my lessons, a month in graduate school, and a month catching up on maintenance projects around the house. My Christmas 2000 cards and letters were mailed a tad late...in early July 2001.

Suddenly, it was September again, but this school year I wasn't quite so pressed for time. While I have an "active" group of students, I'm generally getting at least 6 hours of sleep a night, and my Christmas cards got into the postal stream on December 24! (Rumor has it that every second grade teacher at my school sent me those students who might benefit from the "firm but gentle" hand of a male teacher. I'm the only male teacher in my school.)

The other factor that delayed this newsletter is that I am having to do more research and stretch further to find material for the newsletter. In the past I'd just flip open the family albums to select unpublished photos and edit materials that resided in my Fitch files or that had been sent to me. Most of the relevant photos in my possession have been published, as have all of the relevant articles, save one or two.

I need members of the family to dig into their attics, memories, and old photo albums and to send me material. Without the unsolicited help of Betty Fitch, Ann Girard, and Anne Nobis, I would have been hard-pressed to fill these eight pages.

Fitch Family Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance 2/5/00	\$2,492.17
Income	
Contributions from Fitch Kin	\$ 199.00
Available Funds	\$2,691.17
Expenses	
Winter 2000 Newsletter	\$ 869.83
Miscellaneous materials	\$ 14.76
Total Expenses	\$ 884.59
Ending Balance 12/27/01	\$1,806.58
Projected Expenses	
Winter 2001 - 2002 Newsletter	\$ 750.00
Projected Balance after this newsletter	\$1,056.58

Thanks to Richard Beers, Barbara Sleeper Hulsizer, Alice Deck, Joan and Ralph Dove, and Susan Bowling for their financial support.

- Mary Louise Fitch from Pg 1 -

the Sisters of the Holy Cross and entered on January 31, 1933. Mary Louise received the name Sister Alma Louise, a name that combined that of her mother and herself.

Until 1969 Mary Louise worked in various hospitals at various assignments. By exam, in 1945 she became an X-ray technologist and in 1958 a medical record administrator. In 1969 she was called to fill in as an archivist at St. Mary's in Notre Dame for a sister who was going on a pilgrimage. When the sister returned, Mary Louise was asked to stay on. A meticulous attention to detail and a love of statistics combined with a gift of almost absolute concentration and an alert inquiring mind made her a marvelous person for the archives.

Mary Louise modernized the archives and made many improvements, even though she had to rely on a typewriter and physical files (no computers). Sister M. Campion Kuhn, who provided most of the information for this article and who worked with Mary Louise marvelled, "All this magnificent work was done with a typewriter and the computer of her mind. What could she have done with an electronic one!"

Genealogy was a passion with her. For years she had been the Fitch family newsletter editor and record-keeper, attending most of the Fitch Family Reunions. The Fitch genealogical records were carefully written in her fine hand and stored in 3-ring binders.

My first contact with Mary Louise was in 1992, shortly after I had written to Carolyn Davis inquiring about the status of Fitch Reunions. At that time I had just published *Jennie's Family*, a collection of Fitch family stories that my mother had. Carolyn passed along my interest to Mary Louise, who wrote me that I "was the answer to her prayers." She was so pleased that a member of a younger Fitch generation was interested in keeping the Fitch family together. Subsequently, I agreed to become the family historian and newsletter editor. (How could I refuse?)

I met Mary Louise at the mini-Fitch Family Reunion in 1992 and kept in touch with her thereafter. She loved crossword puzzles and was very adept at crocheting and knitting. Soon after Bernadine and I adopted our son Alex, we received a beautifully knitted baby sweater from Mary Louise, which we treasure.

On the wall of whatever office she occupied, Mary Louise hung two reminders. One was a quote attributed to Santayana: "Those who do not learn from the past are doomed to repeat it." The other quotation was a more personal one: "Be patient. God isn't finished with me yet."

Write, call, or e-mail your Fitch stories, births, deaths, marriages, and changes of address. Send your family photos and documents. I'll dupe the photos and return the originals.

Bill Cassell
9 Independence Avenue
Lexington, MA 02421

Voice: 781-862-6172
FAX: 781-862-5319
email: cassellcw@aol.com

Iowa and the Fitches

Thanks to Ann Pearson Girard, Charles Fitch's great granddaughter, we have learned more about the Fitch family's connection to Iowa. As you may remember, it was said that Nathaniel Fitch had two hobbies: Wheat and land. When Nathaniel died, he owned 2,200 acres of land, some of which was in Iowa. Using information provided by Ann, we now know when and where Nathaniel bought land in Iowa.

A land abstract, dated October 1875, shows that Nathaniel bought 160 acres from the government on June 21, 1855. The land was located in Butler County, which is about 90 miles north-north-east of Des Moines and about 400 miles from Fort Wayne, as the crow flies. It would have been much further by the primitive roads of that day.

In early 1855, Nathaniel, Sarah, and their nine children moved from their log house into the larger frame house that we know as the Fitch Homestead. On March 29, Sarah Elizabeth was born. Soon thereafter, Nathaniel learned that the government was opening up land in Iowa, and he decided to purchase some. Sarah made a vest for him to wear on the trip. It had gold coins sewed into the lining in many places, and during the trip Nathaniel never took the vest off, except when he needed to remove a coin to purchase food or lodging. He wore his farm clothes, which gave him the appearance of laborer, not a well-to-do farm and mill owner.

Nathaniel walked most of the way. Given that he was a prodigious walker, he probably made the trip from Fort Wayne, Indiana, to Butler County, Iowa, in about a month. The last day before he got to the town where the land office was, a man came along in a buggy and gave him a lift. When he got to town, the man invited Nathaniel to eat supper with him. Nathaniel turned him down. After eating, the man went to the land office, only to learn that the last of the land had been sold to Nathaniel Fitch. "He is that man standing across the street." The man remarked, "That is the man that rode to town with me. I thought he was a wanderer. I offered to buy his supper. He didn't look like he had a dime."

In a document from the General Land Office, dated June 28, 1864, Nathaniel's Iowa land holdings as of October 15, 1855, were given as 280 acres. We know little about what transpired on Nathaniel's Iowa land until 1873. In the land abstract provided by Ann, it is noted that Nathaniel and Sarah sold the land to their third son, Charles, on April 22, 1873, for \$2,800 or \$1.00 per acre.

Charles was 27 at the time. He had married Lou Ann Clubb on April 26, 1868, and they had two children, Stella and Rosie May at the time of the purchase. Lou Ann was pregnant with their third child, Nathaniel, who would be born on June 19, 1873. They had moved to Iowa by prairie schooner, probably to Nathaniel's land, shortly after they were married.

Charles Oakley Fitch, their fourth child, wrote about his parents early times in Iowa. "They built a one room log cabin on the prairie. It was rugged living on the prairie. There was no wood, and during the winter they



Charles Fitch, as he appeared in the book *Men of Minnesota*, sometime after he moved there in 1887. The caption reads, "South St. Paul. Fitch & Co., Live Stock; Vice Pres. National Live Stock Exchange; Vice Pres. Live Stock Exchange of South St. Paul."

twisted hay into bundles and burned it to keep warm. One winter they burned corn, as it was not worth anything anyhow.

"Before father left Indiana, he went with some of his neighbor boys to a college (Fort Wayne College) in Fort Wayne. My uncle Allen (Fitch) told me once that he visited Charlie at the college, and that these tall raw boned country boys all chewed tobacco in school and spit most anywhere. Anyhow, father got a teacher's certificate, and when the country around him in Iowa (near what is now Clarksville) settled up some, he taught school for a number of years in a little country school house and also had sing fests nights with all the neighbors.

According to *Minnesota and Its People*, Volume III, published in 1924, Charles began teaching school in Allen County, Indiana, at the age of 17. After teaching there for several terms, he went to Keokuk County and Butler County, Iowa. According to this source, he later engaged in farming in Butler County, and bought and sold livestock.

Apparently, Charles Fitch farmed and taught school for a couple of years, as the entries in his journal and account book (October 22, 1873 - November 28, 1886) show both activities up to an entry dated April 3, 1874, after which there is no mention of teaching. He grew apples, currants, pears, cherries, oats, wheat and corn, raised hogs, and kept horses.

After a month of entries about husking corn and banking snow against the house and stables, Charles writes, "Friday, November 14, 1873..Hired out for one month to teach school at \$36 per school month. D. Buckholtz, Director." The next day he went to Clarksville and borrowed \$100, using the school job as security, and paid a number of people. On the following Monday, Charles

"commenced teaching school in District - Independent Pleasant Valley Fremont Township, Butler County, Iowa. Had one load of dry stove wood for school. Took dinner at Wm. Buckholtz. No scholars. I think that there is not enough interest manifested by patrons of school."

On November 24, Charles writes, "At school as usual. Eleven scholars enrolled. Wrote to parents about books. School interesting but poorly managed." The next day there were only four students present. By early December there were fourteen students enrolled, and by December 18, "school prospering...30 scholars enrolled." Monday, December 22, was commencement time. On the next day Charles received \$35 and one dollar due.

His journal details his activities at home (sick children, worn-out wife), his purchases (lumber, cloth, rubber coat, cigars), and his farming (plowed, thrashed wheat, sold hogs and corn.)

In Clarksville, Iowa, on November 28, 1886, at age 43, he wrote the following: (some editing of spelling and punctuation has been done)

"It is with some reluctance that I undertake to write a brief sketch of my past life. But believing that every person's life is a History of itself or book if you prefer, which if it be offered and read might - influence for the right - others similarly situated. Biography of Persons I have read with interest but historians as a rule aim high on writing the likes of men and are apt to follow public opinion too closely, so that their writings may meet with public favor in missing point of view. I shall in this case try to adhere to my own views and impressions in this case although the public may have thought differently.

"Our Family Bible records my birthday on the 29th of March eighteen hundred and forty six, I was born near the junction of Willow and Big Cedar Creeks in the County of Allen, State of America, Indiana. My father's name Nathaniel Fitch. Birthplace Wyoming, Pa. My mother's Sarah E. DeLong Fitch. Birthplace near Dayton, Ohio. The house I can recollect was made of logs not hewn with stick chimney on the outside and a fireplace wide enough for five felt cuts of log of wood. There was a crane attached to the side of the fireplace which would swing in and out as the case might be to heat water or cook meats. All of the utensils for cooking were very crude and the fireplace must answer the double purpose of heating the rooms and furnace for preparing food.

"The house, as near as I can recollect, was 14 x 16, all in one room below and a rough ladder for stairway in the upper part. The lower room had two old-fashioned bedsteads with a trundle bed under each that was pulled out (each) evening. As I was the fourth out of a family of fifteen children with one hired man and a boarded school marm besides, you can imagine that there was some mental arithmetic to be used by the head of the house to cook, sleep, and eat in the backwoods of Indiana away back in eighteen hundred fifty.

"I will state, however, that at the time mentioned there were only about six children (or eight by 1851). The

house was built on a high bank with Willow Creek rippling along at the foot of it. In the side of the bank and above the bed of the stream was a spring, and all the water for house use must be toted up a thirty foot hill. As I grew able to carry a pail, I thought Mother used a right smart of water. And I don't suppose I ever was called on to go but what I made the remark. "I brought the last pail. Let Si go or Perry or Jennie" or the nearest one to me, whoever it might be. And I will say right here...I am forty years old and occasionally I hear that remark from boys in this almost the nineteenth century. It may be hereditary.

"There was a blacksmith shop near the house. It was a hard wood frame building, and it stands today to mark the spot where my father toiled from early morn until late at night, shoeing oxen and horses, changing flintlock guns to cap guns, making steel traps, bolts, burss (sic), butcher knives and axes for the settlers in the vicinity for miles around.

"Schools were very primitive affairs compared with schools of today. Our (school) house was small with long walnut desks running full length of the house on both sides with slabs with legs to them for seats and benches in front of desks for small scholars or those who did not write. The Old Elementary Spelling Book stood first on the list for books. Colburn's Mental Arithmetic was the main spokes in the wheel. Geography was taught by singing United States, Washington, the government republican, and everybody sang.

"The school houses in other districts were not so well fixed, being log houses with a huge fireplace for heating purposes. The teacher invariably boarded around with the parents of the pupils, and many an extra meal of corn bread and hominy was prepared by the fireplace when young Hoosies reported, 'Teacher is coming tonight.'

"When I allow memory to carry me back to those days of heavy forest of timber with the wild game there so plenty and the beauties of nature as it was one, I can almost believe it was better to let it remain that the red man of the forest was the true man of nature. I see the mighty forest of timber chopped and burned to ashes...any way to get rid of it...and then compare it to the prairies where timber is such an object, and the land is cleared, ready for the plow. It would never have been done had the settlement commenced from the West to the East."

Charles' recollections in 1886 preceded his move to South St. Paul, Minnesota, by just a year. In 1887 he went to St. Paul and established a livestock commission business with his brother, Allen Fitch. His family followed in 1888.

In 1870, while teaching in District No. 7, VanBuren Township, Keokuk, Iowa, Charles Fitch wrote the following on a student's paper:

"Educate the Head to Think, the Heart to Feel, the Body to Act...and you will have fulfilled the great and noble work in which God devolved upon us."

-Iowa from Pg 4 -

Ann Girard writes, "I would expect that Nathaniel Fitch, who appeared to value education so highly, was proud of Charles. I would also expect that Charles, a teacher who was concerned and involved with the development of students and their moral character, would be thrilled that his philosophy of integrity, compassion, honest work ethic, and reflection of the world in which he lived, was not only instilled in his children, but passed on to at least nine other teaching family members either through marriage or direct descendants! Through the Charles Fitch line, there are nine teachers of whom I am aware."

Teachers connected to Charles Fitch:

Charles Fitch
Rosie May Fitch Harvey, daughter
Charles Oakley Fitch, son
Marjorie Fitch Shirk, granddaughter
Elizabeth Ann Fitch Pearson, granddaughter
Lucy Varien Fitch Kiernan, granddaughter
Anne Lucile Shirk Nobis, great granddaughter
Susan Elizabeth Shirk Bowling, great
granddaughter
Ann Elizabeth Pearson Girard, great
granddaughter



Marjorie Vivian Fitch Shirk celebrated her 95th birthday in Cincinnati in June 2000 with her extended family. On the left is her daughter, Susan Shirk Bowling, and on the right is Lauren Winkler, one of her five great grandchildren. (If you have a multi-generation photo, send a copy to the Newsletter, with who's who written on the back. Thanks.)

More on the Fitch - DAR Connection

For anyone who is interested in joining the Daughters of the American Revolution, Betty secured more information on Paul Keeler's service in the Revolutionary Army, along with a copy of Paul Keeler's service record in Waterbury's (Connecticut) Regiment. Betty forwarded a letter from Ann Sickler Hassold, which said in part:

"I found the information for Paul Keeler's Revolutionary War service at the western branch of the National Archives located not far from where I live (California). They have the general indexes to compiled service records of revolutionary war soldiers on microfilm in alphabetical order. For example all men whose names start with "K" are grouped together, regardless of where they enlisted. The ONLY Paul Keeler in the index is the one who enlisted in Connecticut for 3 days service, so I am sure as I can be that it is our Paul.

"The archives also have the service records of the soldiers, which are photographed pay slips. The National Archives' number for Paul Keeler's actual service record is M881." Contact Betty Fitch or Bill Cassell for a copy.

Warren Fitch Dies

Warren Fitch, Mathias Fitch's great grandson, died on April 25, 2000, at the age of 71. Warren and his wife Betty were active at many Fitch Family Reunions over the years. Without their help, the recent reunions would not have happened. Warren was a native of Fort Wayne and had been a consumer affairs manager at Magnavox for 21 years, before he retired in 1980. We will miss his ready smile and his unwavering support at our future reunions.

Photo Identification

On page 12 of the same newsletter, the caption of the photo in the upper right corner noted an unidentified man with a child on his knee. That man has been identified as Francelia Fitch Fair's husband, Christian Norman Fair. As he died in 1924 at age 77, this photo was taken before 1924. Mabel Fitch Durkee, who is on the right in the back row, was born in 1881 and married in 1905. As she looks like she might be in her early 30's, the photo may date from the 1910's. Can anyone identify the child in the photo?

Learning to Drive...The Hard Way

Joan Dove writes, "I remember one funny incident back in the early 1940's. Mabel Fitch Durkee (Charles Fitch's daughter) and her husband John were visiting my Aunt Gladys Fitch (Amos' daughter) in Fort Wayne. It was decided that Mabel, who was about 55 at the time, should learn to drive. At that time there was a hedge fence along the long lane at Amos' old place. Mabel started backing up (too fast) and put the rear of their car into the hedge fence. It wouldn't budge, so we had to call a wrecker to get it out. Needless-to-say, that was the last of the driving lessons."

- Fitch Teachers from Pg 1 -

free. The seminary was a wood frame building of which Mr. Kell said in broken English, "I wish you would break up. Then I do better." There was no toilet or well.

On the first floor there were two large rooms for classes. On the second floor there were six or seven small rooms, where the teacher lived, and some boys stayed during the week. Other students came by wagon or sled, gathering others along the way. Some of the students, Moll and Jane Fair, Mary Fleming, Ann Ross, and two Vandoler girls would spin and do other work in return for board at Nathaniel's place.

There was an oral entrance exam, where the teacher asked questions, and parents sat up front to watch when their children were quizzed.

One of the teachers, Mr. Fleming, had "Eastern" ideas as to what should be taught and had the children studying Greek and Latin, among other subjects. Mr. Fleming was probably the teacher who was hired after Jennie Fitch indicated an interest in going to college. In those days, college students needed to know Latin, so Nathaniel arranged to hire a teacher from Boston who could teach Latin.

While Jennie was attending the seminary, probably around 1861 or 1862, she and the other girls made a Union flag, as a display of patriotism during the Civil War. It was that same Civil War patriotism that closed the Perry Center Seminary in the early years of the war. When military drums were heard, Mr. Fleming would dismiss class, and everyone would go out to watch the wagons of Union soldiers going by. The romance of war finally got the best of them, and Mr. Fleming and many of his students enlisted in the Union Army. The seminary was closed. The deed on the seminary's land had never been recorded, and, when the building ran down, Mr. Kell tore it down and built a barn in its place.

A non-graded district school house provided education to the younger Fitch children. To reach that school, the children crossed Cedar Creek on a fallen tree trunk. When the creek flooded, Nathaniel would take his and the neighbor children across in a canoe, cautioning them not to put their hands in the water.

Nathaniel made sure that his children got to school on time. In the morning he would glance at the clock and say, "school time." Then he would stand at the door and see that the children got off to school. The children remember leaving on cold mornings, just at daylight. When the children came home from school, their snack included mush, which had cooked for several hours. Later, when he was sick and didn't go out, Nathaniel would stir the mush as it cooked. There would be pitchers of milk and maybe doughnuts and apple pie.

Some of the ideas of one district school teacher were not appreciated. Sarah, Nathaniel's wife, once heard children cry out as the teacher walked around the room, striking the legs of the children who were seated along the sides of the room. Since Sarah did not believe in the corporal punishment of children, she strenuously objected to the

teacher's behavior. There is no record of what happened after she objected; but, knowing Sarah's strong will, one can only suppose that the punishment stopped.

On the last day of school each year there was always an exhibition of what the students had learned. Declamations and essay reading were common. Ida Fitch, who may have been 8 or 9 at the time, was to recite from memory, "Over the Hill to the Poorhouse," which had just come out in Will Carleton's book. Jennie was helping Ida, and Ida would get mad at Jennie about something, get stubborn, and not do anything. After Ida went to bed, Jennie would go up and coax her to recite the poem. At the exhibition Ida spoke it, wearing a long black dress, bent over with a cane. The poem, which relates the story of a 70-year old mother who is put out by her thankless children, ends with this verse:

"Over the hill to the poor-house, my child'm dear good-by!
Many a night I've watched you when only God was nigh;
And God'll judge between us; but I will al'ays pray
'nat you shall never suffer the half I do today."

By the time Ida uttered those last words, Mrs. Stover, the preacher, and Mrs. Miller were in tears. Just about everyone was crying.

After the exhibition, tables were carried out and set up under the big oaks for lunch. It was a potluck affair, where everyone brought food, not unlike our Fitch Reunions. Being the honored ones, the children ate first, waited upon by their mothers. On another big oak up a little ways, Mr. Stone would put up a big swing with a rope that he brought from the mill.

Mrs. Noonan would stand by her son Jimmie at the graduation meal and nudge him to eat all that he could. "Don't let anything pass you, Jimmie." When everyone had eaten, she would gather up the leftover food in a pillowcase to take home.

Nathaniel's third child, who had been named Mary Jane but was called Jennie, took to learning like a duck takes to water. She was the first of many teachers who are descended from Nathaniel and Sarah Fitch. Jennie wanted to go to college, which in those days made her a prime candidate for a teaching career. Nathaniel heartily approved of Jennie's desire, for he figured that she would return to Perry Township to teach the growing Fitch family.

Jennie graduated from Hillsdale College in Hillsdale, Michigan, in 1870 with a bachelor's degree and returned home to teach the summer after her graduation in the white schoolhouse across Cedar Creek. During that summer parents paid by subscription for teaching their children. Unfortunately, Jennie was not satisfied to teach there, and in the fall she taught in Fort Wayne. Nathaniel was very disappointed that Jennie would not stay to teach the local children.

Soon thereafter, Jennie taught for a year in Utica, New York, and then at Wabash College in Wabash, Indiana, where she met another college instructor, Levi Beers.

- Fitch Teachers from Pg 7 -

In March of 1865, at age 19, Levi had enlisted in the Union Army and received the county enlistment bonus of \$500. A bout of measles kept him from moving out with his regiment in April. About that time Richmond was taken, and, according to Levi's diary, "Lee and his army were retreating on Danville with Grant in full pursuit." With the war coming to an end, there was no need to send him after his regiment or to raise another regiment; so in May, 1865, Levi was discharged with his enlistment bonus in his pocket. It was that enlistment bonus that paid for Levi's education at Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, Ohio, where he earned a bachelor's degree in 1870 and master's degree in 1873.

Levi persistently wooed Jennie, and on December 24, 1873, Jennie and Levi were married in Huntertown, Indiana. Jennie stopped teaching when her son, Kenneth, was born in 1876, but Levi continued to teach at Wabash College and later at Clarion Seminary in Clarion, Pennsylvania. When Clarion Seminary was swallowed up by the state school system, Levi sensed that his role in life was a Methodist minister, not a school teacher. As Kenneth Beers write in *Jennie's Family*, "This decision to change from this most promising field, education, with sure and permanent advancement and emoluments in keeping, was not one to be lightly made. I doubt not that in this crisis on their knees, both my father and my mother poured out their souls to their Creator, asking his advice and placing their future in His keeping." Their decision made, Levi began a long career as a small town Methodist minister with Jennie at his side.

Interestingly, Levi attempted a return to education

when it became clear to them in 1892 that the public school facilities and life in small country towns would soon be inadequate for the needs of his growing children. He moved his family to North Harvey, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago, in 1892 to become principal of a new school, the Harvey Academy.

The school was part of a grand "colonization" scheme by Thomas Walters, a well-known real estate promoter. Walters had sold stock and built a great hotel that covered an entire block of North Harvey, in anticipation of overflow crowds attending Chicago's World's Columbian Exposition in 1893. Unfortunately, the hotel burned to the ground before it could generate any revenue for Walters' other projects, including the Harvey Academy. Levi turned to selling coal and ice to feed his family, with Jennie keeping a garden and a small flock of laying hens. Thus ended the educational careers of Levi and Jennie Fitch Beers.

Their descendants, however, have carried on the teaching tradition that Jennie and Levi began. Two of their children, Alice Beers Kephart and Bertha Beers Hunt, became junior high school and business teachers, respectively. In the following generation, Bob Ozanne was a teacher and a professor of economics, and Bob Beers was a teacher after a career in the Air Force.

Among Jennie's great grandchildren, Susan Cassell Spangler was a special education teacher, Sandra Cassell Peterson is a secondary school reading teacher, and Bill Cassell is now a third grade teacher, after a career in newspaper publishing. Richard Beers' wife Diane, has taught full-time for 18 years, from university to kindergarten levels. Margaret Peterson Sherick, Sandra Peterson's daughter, was a science teacher.



Sarah DeLong Fitch (seated, third from right) with her grandchildren at the 1905 Fitch Family Reunion at the Fitch Homestead.



Anne Nobis in Fitchville, Ohio.

Fitchvilles, Fitchburgs

Fitches, Fitches, Everywhere...

Paul and Anne Shirk Nobis were returning to Cincinnati from Northern Ohio and decided to drive through **Fitchville, Ohio**, which is located just southeast of Sandusky, Ohio. She learned that Fitchville is actually a township in Huron County and part of an area known as "The Firelands." "This land was claimed by Connecticut under its colonial charter from England. Eight towns in Connecticut were burned by the British during the Revolutionary War. People whose homes or stores were burned were termed 'fire sufferers' and were given land in northern Ohio as compensation."

The land they were given was called the "fire sufferers' land" or the "Firelands." 1,890 families owned this land. The state of Connecticut helped them form the company to get the land ready for settlement. Before the settlers could come, the Indian tribes had to be paid for the land. The chiefs of the Indian tribes and men who acted as agents for the fire sufferers agreed to pay the Indians \$19,000 for the title to the Firelands' half a million acres. That's less than \$.04 per acre.

Burwell Fitch was among the first settlers of the adjacent township of Sherman, arriving in 1812 from Norwalk, Connecticut. Jonathan Fitch came to the Firelands around 1817. It was thought that Fitchville was named after a Connecticut landowner named Fitch. Given the various Fitch lines in colonial Connecticut, it is likely that these Fitches are related to us via a very early ancestor.

According to the *History of the Fitch Family* by Roscoe Conkling Fitch, Fitchville was named in honor of Connecticut Governor Thomas Fitch and his family. The major part of the governor's home on East Avenue, Norwalk, Connecticut, was burned by the British troops under Generals Tryon and Garth in 1779.

Fitchville, Connecticut is a post-village of New London, Connecticut. It occupies the site of the old Huntington Iron Works, established by Nehemiah Huntington and Capt. Joshua Abel in 1750. This Fitchville was founded by Asa Fitch, Esq. (1787 - 1865)

Corrections

Contrary to what was printed on page 14 of the Winter 2000 Newsletter, Grace Fitch was not Mathias Fitch's daughter. She was John B. Fitch's daughter and Mathias Fitch's granddaughter.

Additions/Changes

Please send corrections, address changes, births, deaths, etc. to Bill Cassell. Thank you in advance.

Fitch Bay, Quebec, Canada, a post-village of Stanstead County, is located on a long arm or bay of Lake Memphremagog, about 7 miles north-northwest of Stanstead. The origin of its name is unclear, but the village is presumed to have been founded by a descendant of Colonel Eleazer Fitch or one of the other Loyalists who moved to Canada after the Revolution.

Colonel Eleazer Fitch was a well-respected citizen and public servant in Windham, Connecticut, but he sympathized with the Loyalists. At the end of the Revolutionary War, ardent Sons of Liberty in Windham decreed that "no mills should grind for, no merchant sell to, a Tory," and it became difficult for Colonel Fitch to get supplies for his family. After he had the temerity to assert "that the Norwich and Windham people had acted like scoundrels in their treatment of those who failed to take an active part in the patriot cause," his neighbors resolved that "who should aid said Fitch in any way" would be tarred and feathered. His wheat and grass were left standing, and considerable trade was withdrawn from him. In September 1783 he and his family were among the band of exiles that left New York City for St. John's, New Brunswick.

Fitchburg, Massachusetts, was named after John Fitch, who in 1748 was one of three defenders of a garrison in that locale. The Indians killed the other two defenders and forced John and his family to march to Canada. They were held for ransom, but Fitch had no nearby relatives to pay it. He and his family were exchanged for French prisoners at the end of the war. Fitchburg is a city 50 miles west-northwest of Boston.

Fitchburg, Wisconsin, was named for the older town in Massachusetts, at the suggestion of Ebenezer Brigham, the first settler in Dane County. He had been born in Worcester County, Massachusetts, and, when the township was being organized in 1841, he suggested the name. This Fitchburg is about 5 miles south of Madison.

Fitchburg, Michigan, was established in 1848 by Ferris Smith Fitch, Sr., after he moved from New York. According to Lippincott's "Gazetteer of the World", 1905, Fitchburg is a post-village of Ingham County, about 17 miles northeast of Jackson, Michigan.





1884 Reunion folks

Sarah (DeLong) Fitch, standing by the fence

Perry Fitch and his wife, **Sarah**

William, born 1868 would be 16

Oliver, born 1871 would be 13

George, born 1872 would be 12

Bert, born 1876 would be 8

Kelsey, born 1878 would be 6

Frank, born 1880 would be 4

Mathias Fitch and wife, **Frances Vandolah**

Schuyler

John, born 1872 would be 12

Walter, born 1874 would be 10

Florence, born 1875 would be 9

Althea, born 1880 would be 4

Beatrice, born 1884 would be an infant

Jennie (Fitch) Beers and husband, **Levi**

Kenneth, born 1876 would be 8

Marjorie, born 1878 would be 6

Leroy, born 1880 would be 4

Bertha, born 1883 would be an infant, held by Jennie

Amos Fitch and wife, **Nancy Hunter**

Gladys, born 1881 would be 3, has dark dress & white collar

Fitelia (Fitch) Gloyd, and husband **Jerome**

Stella, born 1877 would be 7

Della May, born 1880 would be 4

Otis, born 1883 would be 1

Harvey Fitch and wife, **Etta Parker**

Audrey, born 1882 would be 2, on Harvey's lap

David Nathaniel Fitch young man

Sarah Eliz. (Fitch) Stratton and husband, **Irvin Franklin Stratton**

Emma (Fitch) Hartzell and **Allen Monroe Hartzell**

Ida Fitch

Poss. **Jefferson Sickler**, relative from the PA Fitch family





1884 Fitch Reunion at the Homestead

MINUTES OF THE FIRST AND SECOND REUNION
OF NATHANIEL AND SARAH FITCH FAMILY

AT THE SECOND ANNUAL REUNION OF THE NATHANIEL AND SARAH E. FITCH FAMILY
HELD AT THE HOME OF MR. AND MRS. AMOS FITCH IN DEKALB COUNTY, INDIANA JULY 4, 1903.

MATHIAS FITCH WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THIS ORGANIZATION AND AT THAT REUNION
BY REQUEST AND MUTUAL CONSENT OF A NUMBER OF THE FAMILY, MRS. EMMA F. HARTZELL WAS
MADE SECRETARY. AND I NOW BEG TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING REPORT OF THE ORGANIZATION
OF THE TWO PREVIOUS MEETINGS HELD JULY 4, 1902 AND JULY 4, 1903.

A BRIEF EXPLANATION OF THE BEGINNING OF THE REUNION IS THOUGHT TO BE OF
INTEREST TO ITS MEMBERS. AND ALSO LAY A FOUNDATION FOR THE RECORD OF THE REUNION
PREVIOUS TO JULY 4, 1904. UPON THE INVITATION OF MR. AND MRS. J. D. GLOYD TO THE
MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY TO MEET AT AND ENJOY THE HOSPITALITIES OF THEIR HOME JULY 4,
1902. THE MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY RESPONDED TO THEIR INVITATION.

MOTHER FITCH, MRS. PERRY FITCH AND CHILDREN, KELSEY, GEORGE, FRANK, CLAUDE
AND PEARL AND TWO GRANDSONS VICTOR AND FRED. MATHIAS FITCH, MR. AND MRS.
SCHUYLER FITCH AND CHILDREN ROEN, ROBERT AND MURLIN. MR. AND MRS. JOHN FITCH AND
CHILDREN GRACE AND MAURICE. MR. AND MRS. AMOS FITCH AND CHILDREN ROLLAND, MARIE
AND MARGUERITE. MR. AND MRS. HARVEY FITCH AND CHILDREN AUDREY, NINA, PARKER,
CECILE, ERNEST. MRS. STATTON AND CHILDREN LEANDER, HAROLD, HELEN, MARGUERITE.
MR. AND MRS. M. A. MASON, MR. AND MRS. ALLEN HARTZELL AND EDITH.

IT IS DESIRABLE ON THE PART OF YOUR SECRETARY TO HAVE A COMPLETE LIST OF THE
NAMES OF EVERY LIVING DESCENDANT OF FATHER AND MOTHER AND I HOPE BEFORE THIS
REPORT IS COPIED IN THE RECORD FOR SUCH PURPOSE, I MAY BE ABLE TO PROCURE SUCH A
LIST.

MUCH CREDIT IS DUE MR. AND MRS. J. D. GLOYD AND FAMILY FOR THEIR EFFORTS IN
MAKING THIS DAY PLEASANT AND ENJOYABLE FOR ALL THOSE PRESENT; AND AS A RESULT OF
THIS PLEASANT GATHERING OF THE FAMILY IT WAS DECIDED TO HOLD ANNUAL REUNIONS.
AND UPON THE INVITATION OF MR. AND MRS. AMOS FITCH THE SECOND ANNUAL REUNION OF
THE FAMILY WAS HELD AT THEIR PLEASANT HOME JULY THE 4TH, 1903.

THOSE PRESENT WERE MOTHER FITCH, MRS. PERRY FITCH AND CHILDREN, KELSEY,
GEORGE, FRANK, CLAUDE AND PEARL. MR. AND MRS. WILL FITCH AND CHILDREN VICTOR AND
FRED. MATHIAS FITCH. MR. AND MRS. SCHUYLER FITCH AND CHILDREN ROEN, ROBERT,
MURLIN. MR. AND MRS. J. D. GLOYD AND CHILDREN ESTELLA, MAY DELLA, OTIS AND NORMA.
MR. AND MRS. HARVEY FITCH AND CHILDREN AUDREY, NINA, PARKER, CECILE AND ERNEST.
MRS. STRATTON AND CHILDREN LEANDER, HAROLD, HELEN, MARGUERITE. MR. AND MRS. M. A.
MASON. MR. AND MRS. ALLEN HARTZELL. WE HAD AS OUR GUEST THE VENERABLE DANFORD
PARKER OF HUNTERTOWN, INDIANA.

THE DAY WAS AN IDEAL ONE. THE SURROUNDING PLEASANT AND THE DINNER GRAND.
ALL OF WHICH CONTRIBUTED TO MAKING THE DAY A VERY ENJOYABLE ONE. AND THE SUCCESS
OF THIS AND THE FIRST MEETING INSURES A CONTINUATION OF THE ANNUAL REUNIONS OF THE
FAMILY.

IN PRESENTING THIS REPORT, I REALIZE ITS IMPERFECTION AND EXPECT TO CORRECT
AND ENLARGE THE SAME TO A MORE PERFECT RECORD OF THE TWO MEETINGS TOGETHER WITH
THE MEETING OF TODAY AND EMBODY THEM IN A PERMANENT RECORD TO BE KEPT BY THE
REUNION ORGANIZATION. ALL OF WHICH I RESPECTFULLY SUBMIT FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION
AND APPROVAL AND DESIRE ANY SUGGESTIONS TO MAKE THE RECORD MORE COMPLETE.

EMMA F. HARTZELL,
SECRETARY

1903

*Minutes of the Second Reunion of
Nathaniel and Sarah Fitch Family.*

Huntertown, Indiana
July 4, 1904

At the second annual reunion of the Nathaniel and Sarah E. Fitch family held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Amos Fitch in DeKalb County, Indiana July 4, 1903.

Mathias Fitch was elected president of this organization and at that subsequent by request and mutual consent of a number of the family. Mrs. Emma F. Hartzell was made secretary. And I now beg to submit the following report of the organization of the two previous meetings held July 4, 1902 and July 4, 1903.

A brief explanation of the beginning of the reunion is thought to be of interest to its members. And also lay a foundation for the record of the reunion previous to July 4, 1904. Upon the invitation of Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Gloyd to the members of the family to meet at and enjoy the hospitalities of their home July 4, 1902. The members of the family responded to their invitation.

Mother Fitch, Mrs. Perry Fitch and children, Kelsey, George, Frank, Claude and Pearl and two Grandsons Victor and Fred. Mathias Fitch, Mr. and Mrs. Schuyler Fitch and children Roen, Robert and Murlin. Mr. and Mrs. John Fitch and children Grace and Maurice. Mr. and Mrs. Amos Fitch and children Rolland, Marie and Marguerite. Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Fitch and children Audrey, Nina, Parker, Cecile, Ernest. Mrs. Statton and children Leander, Harold, Helen, Marguerite. Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Mason, Mr. and Mrs. Allen Hartzell and Edith.

It is desirable on the part of your secretary to have a complete list of the names of every living descendant of Father and Mother and I hope before this report is copied in the record for such purpose, I may be able to procure such a list.

Much credit is due Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Gloyd and family for their efforts in making this day pleasant and enjoyable for all those present; and as a result of this pleasant gathering of the family it was decided to hold Annual Reunions. And upon the invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Amos Fitch the second annual reunion of the family was held at their pleasant home July the 4th, 1903.

Those present were Mother Fitch, Mrs. Perry Fitch and children, Kelsey, George, Frank, Claude and Pearl. Mr. and Mrs. Will Fitch and children Victor and Fred. Mathias Fitch. Mr. and Mrs. Schuyler Fitch and children Roen, Robert, Murlin. Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Gloyd and children Estella, May Della, Otis and Norma. Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Fitch and children Audrey, Nina, Parker, Cecile and Ernest. Mrs. Stratton and children Leander, Harold, Helen, Marguerite. Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Mason. Mr. and Mrs. Allen Hartzell. We had as our guest the venerable Danford Parker of Huntertown, Indiana.

The day was an ideal one. The surrounding pleasant and the dinner grand. All of which contributed to making the day a very enjoyable one. And the success of this and the first meeting insures a continuation of the annual reunions of the family.

In presenting this report, I realize its imperfection and expect to correct and enlarge the same to a more perfect record two meetings together with the meeting of today and embody them in a permanent record to be kept by the reunion organization. All of which I respectfully submit for your consideration and approval and desire any suggestion to make the record more complete.

Emma F. Hartzell,
Secretary.

Huntertown, Indiana
July 4, 1904

The third annual reunion of the Nathaniel and Sarah E. Fitch family was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Mathias Fitch in Allen County, Indiana July 4, 1904.

The day was an ideal one. The natural beautiful location with its lofty hills and well kept lawn combined made this a pleasant place for the occasion.

Nothing had happened to bring sadness to any members of this family during the year. And all came with their best smiles on and bent on making this the most pleasant reunion of this family. And viewed from the secretary's chair, all had a good time and went home anticipating the meeting of July 4, 1905.

After the usual amount of hand-shaking and congratulations dinner consisting of all the good things of the season, was served on the shaded lawns and was enjoyed by all, especially the "male" members of the family.

Next a business meeting was called by the president, Mathias Fitch, and appropriate to the day and occasion all joined in singing "America", after which they were led in prayer by J. D. Gloyd. The roll showed sixty-six members present. The minutes including two former meetings were read and approved as read. A motion was made to make this organization a permanent one, and that there be a committee appointed to draft by-laws. The motion was carried. Committee appointed - Mathias Fitch, Chairman, Amos Fitch, J. D. Gloyd, Allen M. Hartzell.

The committee on amusements amused us all so much and every one was so well pleased with their work that they were unanimously re-elected. We had for our guests of honor the venerable Sanford Parker of Huntertown, Ind., and Mrs. Stirling of Auburn, Indiana.

There being no other business before this meeting we adjourned to meet at the Old Homestead,
July 4, 1905.

Emma F. Hartzell,
Secretary





1905 Fitch Reunion at the Homestead
Notice the entryway and walnut tree July 4

Huntertown, Indiana
July 4, 1905

The fourth annual reunion of the Nathaniel and Sarah E. Fitch family was held July 4, 1905 at the Homestead.

The birth place of many of the family. The familiar and well loved home of all. Changes have taken place: but Mother was still there to greet her children, grand children and great grandchildren to the number of 75.

The day was fair and the tall evergreen trees and fruit trees in the large yard waved their welcome to old and young and cast their shadows invitingly.

The large walnut tree under which the dinner was eaten, spread its long branches protectingly to shield the dinner from the sun. Also from the sudden shower of rainfall. The exterior of the house had a patriotic air decorated with flags and bunting. The day was for most part given up to a social time.

The new twins and other babies new and old held count most of the day.

After dinner a few games and national songs were enjoyed. Then the family artist -- Mr. Frank Fitch successfully photographed several different groups of the family. It was agreed that the next reunion should be held at the same place.

Those Present were:

Mrs. Sarah E. Fitch; Mrs. Perry Fitch and children, Mr. Will Fitch and wife and three boys, Mr. Bert Fitch and wife and three children, Mr. Kelsey Fitch and wife and two children, Frank, George, Claude and Pearl; Mr. Mathias Fitch and wife and children; Mr. Schuyler Fitch and wife and three children; Mr. John Fitch and wife and three children; Mrs. Bessie Fitch Kell and husband and three children; Althea and Beatrice Fitch; Mr. Amos Fitch and wife and children, Gladys, Roland, Marie and Marguerite. Mr. Harvey Fitch and wife and children Parker, Audrey, Nina, Cecil and Ernest; Mr. David Fitch and wife and children Burgess, Herschel, Helen, Auburn, Ind; Mr. Allen Fitch and wife, South St. Paul, Minn; Mrs. Fitelia Fitch Gloyd and husband and children Estella, Della, Otis and Norma; Mrs. Sarah Fitch Stratton and children Leander, Harold, Helen, Marguerite, Ft. Wayne; Mrs. Jennie Fitch Meers and daughter Alice, Harvy, Illinois; Mrs. Ida Fitch Mason and husband, Ft. Wayne, Ind.; Mrs. Emma Fitch Hartzell and husband, New Haven, Ind. We had for our guests Mr. Parker of Huntertown, Ind. and Mrs. James Sterling of Auburn, Ind. In all 79 were present. The meeting was closed to meet one year from that day. July 4 to 1905 to July 4, 1906.

Mathias, Pres.
Emma F. Hartzell, Sec.

Huntertown, Indiana
July 4, 1906

The fifth annual reunion of the Nathaniel and Sarah E. Fitch family was held at the Old Homestead. The familiar and well loved home of all. Changes have taken place but Mother was still their to greet her children, grand children and great grand children. After the usual amount of hand-shaking and congratulations dinner was served under the large walnut tree and all was doing justice to the good things on the table when the rain cam pouring down and all ran for shelter but it was soon over and all was merry as ever. Next was a business meeting called by the president, Mathias Fitch. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved as read. A motion was made for an amusement committee. William Fitch was made president of committee and he could select any one or more persons to assist him. After the full amount of business was gone over a few national songs were sung and enjoyed by all. Those present were Mrs. Sarah Fitch; Mrs. Perry Fitch and children; Mr. William Fitch, wife and children, Victor, Fred and Forrest; Frank, George, Claude, Pearl; Mathias Fitch, wife and children, Althia, Beatrice; John Fitch, wife and children, Grace, Monice, Otice; Mrs. Bessie Fitch Kell and husband and children Katherine, Sarah, Elizabeth, Jacob. Mr. Amos Fitch, wife and children, Gladys, Roland, Marie, Marguerite; Mr. Harvey Fitch, wife and children, Audrey, Nina, Cecil and Ernest; Mrs. Jennie Fitch Beers and daughter Alice; Mrs. Fitelia Fitch Gloyd and husband and children, Estella, Della, Otice and Norma; Mrs. Sarah Fitch Stratton and children, Helen, Marguertie; Mrs. Ida Fitch Mason and husband; Emma Fitch Hartzell.

Total present fifty-one. There being no other business the meeting was closed to meet one year from dat July 4, 1906 to July, 1907.

Mathias Fitch, President

Emma F. Hartzell, Secretary

Huntertown, Indiana
July 4, 1907

The sixth annual reunion of the Nathaniel and Sarah E. Fitch family was held at the home of our president, Mathias Fitch and wife. The day was one long to be remembered. The morning was spent in a most pleasant manner visiting and greeting one and all. G. D. Gloyd returned thanks and everybody was eager to partake of the good things prepared for this occasion. The meeting was then called to order by the president Mathias Fitch. The minutes were read and approved as read. No new business or unfinished business before the meeting -- it was then opened for general discussion of which the main subject was where the next meeting was to be held. After much discussion it was decided to hold it at the Old Homestead. There being no other business, the meeting was closed to meet one year from date July 4, 1907 to July 4, 1908. Total present sixty-one.

Mathias Fitch, President
Emma Hartzell, Secretary

1908

Huntertown, Indiana
July 4, 1908

The seventh annual reunion of the Nathaniel and Sarah E. Fitch family was held at the Old Homestead the day was a very enjoyable one.

After greetings and hand-shaking, a sumtuous dinner was spread at which over seventy par took of the many good things.

After dinner the meeting was called to order by the Pres., Mathias Fitch. At the roall call seventy-four responded.

Minutes of the previous reunion was read and approved, after which the following officers were elected; President, J. D. Gloyd; Secretary, Belle Fitch; Treasure, Nan Fitch.

The place of meeting was left with the executive committee. Those in attendance from a distance were Schuyler Fitch and family of Seattle; Kenneth Beers and wife of South Bend, Ind. David Young and wife of Troy, Ohio; and Evert Seckler of Arlington, Kansas.

A collection amounting to \$8.50 was raised after the expences of cars, crean, etc., \$2.80 remained in Treasure.

Adjourned to meet at call of president.

J. D. Gloyd, President
Belle Fitch, Secretary

1909

New Haven, Indiana
July 3, 1909

The eighth annual reunion of the Nathaniel Fitch family was held at the beautiful country home of Mr. and Mrs. Allen Hartzell. At roll call twenty-six members of the immediate family responded. Mr. & Mrs. Mason of New Haven and Mrs. Kleinrackert were present.

It was suggested a record of Mother Fitch's death be made in the minutes which occurred September 2, 1908. Harry Fitch's death occurred the same year.

Numerous remarks were made in regard to changing the date of meeting to a more suitable time. On motion made by Will Fitch and seconded by Emma Hartzell, we retain the 4th of July as the date for reunion. Motion carried.

Mrs. Harvey Fitch extended the hospitality of their home for the reunion to be held the following year, which was accepted.

A motion made by Mathias Fitch and seconded M. Mason that the same officers be retained. Motion carried.

Amount of money in treasury at last meeting - Two dollars and eighty cents. (\$2.80).

Collection amounted to \$4.35⁷⁵

Expenses were 5.00

Leaving a balance of \$2.15 in treasure.

There being no other business the meeting adjourned to meet in one year at the home of Harvey Fitch.

J. D. Gloyd, President
Belle Fitch, Secretary

1910

Huntertown, Indiana
July 4, 1910

The Reunion of the Nathaniel Fitch family was held at the pleasant home of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Fitch. Forty-eight members were present. Mr. and Mrs. John Moudy, Mr. David Young and grand daughter of Troy, Ohio and Miss Law of Highland, Kansas were guests of the organization.

After the roll call the report of the Fitch fund was given amounting to \$3.66.

It was suggested that the secretary write to those not reported.

A bill for \$1.05 for cards and printing to secretary was read. Motion was made by M. Mason, seconded by M. Fitch that the bill be allowed the motion carried.

A motion was made by M. Mason and seconded by Emma Hartzell that the bill of bread be sent to secretary to have treasurer pay same. Motion carried.

Mrs. J. D. Gloyd offered her home as the place for the next meeting. Motion made by Emma Hartzell and seconded by M. Fitch we accepted same.

Motion made by M. Fitch and seconded by M. Mason that same officers be retained for coming year. Motion carried.

A motion was made and supported that a vote of thanks be extended to Mr. and Mrs. Fitch for their hospitality. Motion carried.

Amount in Treas.	\$2.15
Fitch fund	3.66
Collection	.95
	<hr/>
	6.76
Paid out	6.35
Balance	<hr/>
	.41

After the usual amount of business the meeting was adjourned to meet in one year with Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Gloyd.

J. D. Gloyd, President
Belle Fitch, Secretary

1911

July 4, 1911

At the beautiful country home of Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Gloyd in Allen County, Indiana, the 10th annual reunion the Nathaniel and Sarah E. Fitch family, was held on July 4, 1911.

The house was appropriately decorated with the National colors.

Old Glory of which we are all so justly proud, and this grand old flag which for so many years floated over the old seminary making it especially dear because of its associations, proudly waved a greeting to all comers.

The morning session was entirely devoted to the reception of relatives. A hearty welcome was extended by the host and hostess, and all present gladly responded by expressing their great pleasure in again meeting the happy families.

At noon the basket dinner was served, covers being placed for fifty. Tables were spread on the south lawn in the shade of the large trees.

Although it would be impossible to do justice to a description of such a dinner, all present certainly did ~~gull~~ justice to the dinner.

At two o'clock, the annual business meeting convened, with Mr. Jerome Gloyd, the president, presiding. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved, forty-eight responding to roll call, with 79 marked absent. Total number enrolled 127.

The report from the proceeds of the Fitch fund was given as follows: Allen Fitch \$2.53; Mathias Fitch 10¢; Emma Hartzell 70¢; Ida Mason 75¢; Fie Gloyd 10¢; Harvey Fitch 10¢; Amos Fitch 60¢; David Fitch 25¢; William Fitch 10¢; Kelsey Fitch 10¢ and 20¢ Total amount \$5.53

In the discussion which followed it was suggested that this money be used, perhaps to bring some distant relative to the annual reunion, perhaps invested but not to be used to defray the expense of the reunion. A motion was made by David Fitch and seconded by Emma Hartzell, that the Fitch fund be used in some special way, and that a committee be appointed to state what it should be used for.

The motion was carried and Allen Hartzell, Mathias Fitch and William Fitch were appointed as the committee. Their report, read by Mathias Fitch was as follows:

"Your committee to whom was referred the question of the Fitch reunion fund, begs to submit the following: That a committee be appointed by the president, such committee shall

consist of the president and two of the fund holders, whose duty shall be to keep an accurate account with each fund holder, and see to collection on investment of the 10%, and make an annual report at the annual reunion, and that no part of the earnings shall be used to defray the expense of the reunion. We also recommend that the 10 % fund may be used and paid out by a vote of 2/3 of the original fund holders." - Committee

Allen Hartzell, Mathias Fitch,
William Fitch. Committee

Signed.

Comments were made by Allen Hartzell, who urged the committee having charge of fund to insist in an annual report from each one who had a share in the original investment. The report was approved and accepted upon motion of Kelsey Fitch, seconded by Allen Hartzell. The committee appointed by the president, consisted of John Fitch, Emma Hartzell, and William Fitch.

Dr. Mason was appointed to take the collection to defray expenses.

The amount given was \$4.34 which with 41¢ balance in the treasury, made a total of \$4.75 on hand.

The following bills were allowed by consent: Ice Cream \$3.00, Printing \$1.35, total \$4.35, leaving a balance in the treasury of 40¢.

The resignation of Mrs. Nan Fitch as treasurer, was read and accepted.

The annual election of officers was held, which resulted as follows: President, John Fitch; Secretary, Kenneth F. Beers, and Treasurer, Mrs. Ida F. Mason.

A cordial invitation was extended by Gladys Fitch for Mr. and Mrs. Amos Fitch, for the reunion to be held at their home on July 4, 1912, and was heartily accepted by consent.

The motion to adjourn was carried, the boys being anxious to "warm up" with a game of pitching horse shoes, and the girls to "cool off" by wading in the cool waters of the little brook running through the orchard. The invitation to "Come in, the waters fine," was accepted by several who later were forced to return to the house to hunt the lost shoes and stockings.

A lively time resulted, and a number of punishments were meted out to the culprits, Marguerite Fitch, Helen Stratton and Forrest Fitch, while several suspended sentences were given, aunt Ida acting as prosecutor. No serious results attended those who received the duckings under the pump, nor from the fact that aunt Ida was obliged to leave for her home without her stockings.

During the afternoon patriotic songs were sung led by Charles Moudy with May Beers presiding at the organ. Refreshments of ice cream, fruit and lemonade were served.

Guests from a distance were uncle David Young and grand daughter Miss Mary Young of Troy, Ohio.

Despite the fact that the weather was the hottest on record for seventeen years, all spent a most delightful day, and at a late hour departed for their homes, looking forward to the time of next annual meeting on July 4, 1912.

John Fitch, President

Kenneth F. Beers, Sec.

1912

July 4, 1912

The eleventh annual reunion of the Nathaniel and Sarah E. Fitch family, began as is the custom at this family gathering, early.

The morning of the 4th of July in 1912 saw all the Fitches in the territory hastening toward the home of uncle Amos and aunt Nan, who with cousins Rolland, Gladys, Marie and Marguerite were ready to greet all comers, and to escort the eatables to their proper places.

Harvey Fitch and family were the first to arrive, having decided that the day was ill suited to haying. Others followed in quick succession and seated under the spreading branches of a big mulberry tree, discussed politics -- mostly Democratic, automobiles, -- mostly Overlands, and all things in general until dinner was served.

And the dinner -- a genuine Fitch dinner. Chicken fried chicken roasted chicken with dressing, chicken undressed, chicken gravy, chicken and noodles, and goodness knows how many more chicken concoctions, boiled ham, cold ham, salads, preserves, pickled eggs, deviled eggs, butters, jellies, pickles, cherry pies and other pies, chocolate cake, sponge cake, devil's food, angel food, black cakes and white cake.

There was doubtless more, but this is only a record of that which passed one end of the table, and much more failed to pass, for ~~that part of the~~ ~~end~~ was guarded by Rolland, John, Parker, Otis, Will and others of equal calibre.

Then came the business meeting which showed 88 present and 40 absent at roll call, the following names being added to the roster; Edith Geller Fitch, wife of Claude Fitch, married. Lucille Margarita Ozanne, daughter of Irving and Margie Ozanne, born Oct. 29, 1911, Olive Iolene Gloyd, daughter of Itis and Arvilla Gloyd, born April 12, 1912; Hazel Naomi Moudy, daughter of Charles and Norma Moudy, born June 19, 1912.

In February, the Angel of Death entered our family circle and claimed one who was ready and waiting the summons. Della Gloyd - Died February 13, 1922 aged 31 years.

"No longer here, she is there: knowing, loving, as the blessed only know and love. Earth has one angel less, and Heaven one more. If human love hath power to penetrate the veil - and hath it not? - then there are yet living here a few who have the blessedness of knowing that an angel loves them. But,

There is a day of sunny rest
For every dark and troubled night
And grief may bide an evening guest
But joy shall come with early light.
For God hath marked each sorrowing day
And numbered every secret tear
And Heaven's long age of bliss shall pay
For all His children suffer here.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.
✓ Upon motion of Emma Hartzell, seconded by Rolland Fitch, the officers were re-elected for the ensuing term.

The report of the Fitch fund showed a balance on hand at last report of \$5.33, to which was added \$5.49 as follows:
Emma Hartzell, \$2.37, Allen Fitch Fitch 62¢, Mathias Fitch \$1.00, Amos Fitch 60¢, Harvey Fitch 35¢, Ida Mason 35¢, and Bert Fitch 20¢, making the total amount on hand in the Fitch fund \$10.82.

A discussion followed in regard to the Fitch fund, as the president suggested that the committee should be responsible for this fund. Emma Hartzell said that the committee was willing to take the responsibility, providing it had the money. No action was taken in regard to this.

Remarks were made by Allen Hartzell regretting the absence of several of the members of the original family, and suggested resolutions urging the original members of the family to come, and also, to put that \$10.00 to work, and that the accumulation should become a personal sum, for which the holder is liable to the association.

A bill of \$2.00 for printing and postage was allowed.
A collection to cover expenses was taken which amounted to \$2.35.

The treasurers report was as follows: Balance on hand at last report \$0.40. Amount received \$2.35, total balance and receipts \$2.75. Expenditures \$2.00, leaving a balance on hand of 75¢

A motion made by Gladys Fitch and seconded by Emma Hartzell, carried, which forever and ever made it impossible for those at whose homes the reunion is to be held in the future, to furnish eatables for the visitors.

Interesting letters were read from Allen Fitch of St. Paul, Minn., Jennie F. Berrs of Holly, Col., and from Roy Beers of Rochester, New York.

Upon motion of Allen Hartzell, a vote of thanks was given Amos and Nan Fitch and family for the pleasant day to be long remembered by all.

The meeting then adjourned to meet at the old home place

on July 4, 1913, at the invitation of cousins Parker and Alma Fitch.

Among those present from a distance were May Harvey and son Kenneth of Minneapolis, Minn., Mabel Durkee of So. St. Paul, Minn. Little Kenneth was heard to remark "they have fine eats around here."

Other visitors were Mrs. Barbara Moody, her daughter Mrs. Tinnis, Moody Zent and two children Mary and Moody Zent.

The remainder of the day was spent in a social way, the time honored game of horse shoes with a yellow jacket's nest thrown in for local color, was indulged in, while a number of the youngsters explored the creek bottom, the barn and the hay mow.

Before leaving for their homes, ice cream was bountifully served to all, as a pleasant surprise and treat from Allen Hartzell and Dr. Mason.

A number of photos of groups were taken, the most important being the collection of Fitch feet.

The day was a very enjoyable one, and at a late hour, the guests left for their homes, looking forward to the day of the next reunion of the family on July 4, 1913.

John Fitch, President

Kenneth F. Beers, Secretary

*The tenth annual reunion of the
Nathaniel Fitch Family
will be held July 4th, 1912, at the home of
Amos and Nan Fitch
Yourself and family are urged to let
nothing prevent your attendance
Conveyances will meet cars leaving Ft. Wayne and
Barrett at 9:30 a.m.*

1913

July 4, 1913

The twelfth annual reunion of the Nathaniel and Sarah E. Fitch family was celebrated July 4, 1913 at the old Fitch homestead, the home of Parker and Alma Fitch. The weather was ideal, and the day was enjoyed by 80 who answered to the roll call.

More joy for the younger folk, perhaps than on other anniversaries, because of the abundant opportunity for exploration along the creek, the woods, and in a score of other places the now grown up youngsters once enjoyed.

The roll call showed 58 absent, and the following names were added to the family roster: Fred Gladbach, who married Pearl Fitch on Spet. 4, 1912; Cecil Elbert Fitch, sone of Oliver and Luretta Fitch, born Spet, 10, 1912; Claude Bolby, husband of Helen Startton, and their daughter Ruth Helen Bolby; Alice Rakestraw Fitch, married Dec. 25, 1912 to Burgess Fitch; Carl Hartnett, who married Rowene Fitch, and Kenneth Darrohn Beers, son of LeRoy and Clara Beers, born April 30, 1913.

Greetings were read from Jennie Fitch Beers of Holly, Colo, and Chas Fitch of So. St. Paul, Minn.

The minutes of the eleventh reunion were read and approved, the report of the treasurer was read and accepted. Collection for the day amounted to \$2.80.

The earnings of the Fitch Funds for the year were reported by the treasurer of that fund as \$6.28, and the total working fund shown to be \$267.70, devided among 13 individuals.. This report in detail was accepted as read.

A protest by President John Fitch against the possibility of life tenure of office was over ridden, and upon motion of Ida Mason, seconded by Allen Hartzell, the old officers were unanimously reelected as follows: President, John Fitch; Treasurer, Ida Mason, and Secretary, Kenneth Beers. Treasurer of the Fitch Fund, Will Fitch.

Remarks from Allen Hartzell about the non-attendance, showed that his idea of having a reunion was to simply have one -- everybody, big and little permitting nothing to interefere with plans to get there each year. That the success of the reunion depends upon the attendance of the original Fitch family. Of course, before the business meeting came the dinner, the usual Fitch dinner, with its usual Fitch after effects, then the ice cream, from the Hartzells and the Masons, also an abundance of candy, nuts and lemonade.

A hearty bote of thanks was given to Parker and Alma for

their gracious hospitality, then -- the adjournment, to meet again next year in a shady sequestered spot, near the home of Mrs. Perry Fitch.

Kenneth F. Beers, Sec.

1914

July 4, 1914

The thirteenth annual reunion of the Nathaniel and Sarah E. Fitch family was held July 4, 1914, at the home of Mrs. Perry Fitch, near Hunteertown.

Perfect reunion weather, the usual appetites, and the presence of all of the daughters of Nathaniel and Sarah Fitch made the occasion of more than usual note. There were more new faces to be introduced at this annual affair than at Previous ones.

David and Belle Fitch exhibited a new daughter - in - law, Alice Rakestraw Fitch, and the first grandchild, little William David Fitch, of Manhattan, Kansas.

Mrs. Jennie Fitch Beers came from Rochester, N.Y. for the reunion and a visit, also Margie Beers Ozanne and her son Bryce, of Neenah, Wisconsin.

Other relatives from a distance were Mrs. Sarah Fitch, Stratton of Gary, Ind; Mrs. Francelia Fitch Fair of Alden, Kansas; Mrs. Valley Fair Bressler and Burgess Fitch and family of Manhattan, Kansas.

In fact, about everybody who could be expected to attend was there, and all enjoyed themselves immensely.

The most attractive spot proved to be the shady corner with the swing -- ladies, of course -- and it was occupied most of the day.

The men, young and old, kept closer to the dinner table and the horse shoe games -- always a part of the real reunion.

Much credit should be given the sons and daughters of Mrs. Perry Fitch for the splendid arrangements which they had made to care for the crowd.

The old evergreen trees made a beautiful background for the decorations of flags and the national colors, and the gentle slope of lawn towards the road, made an ideal place for the one long table where covers were placed for 83.

The feast was a tempting one that proved most satisfying to everyone there. This was especially noticable at the foot of the table where, for once all of the beet pickles rolled down to Allen Hartzell.

After dinner a short business session was held, with the president, John Fitch, presiding. The minutes of the previous

meeting were read and approved. Reports of the Fitch fund given by the treasurer, Wm. Fitch showed a balance in the treasury of \$24.44. The treasurer, Mrs. Ida Mason, reported \$5.52 in the treasury.

Greetings were read from Mr. & Mrs. Allen Fitch, So. St. Paul, Minn; Chas. Fitch, So. St. Paul, Minn; Mrs. May Harvey, Minneapolis, Minn; Schuyler Fitch, Seattle, Wash; Roy F. Beers, Rochester, N.Y., and also a letter from Pearl Fitch, now Mrs. Fred W. Diehl, 158 Highland Ave. , Winthrop, Mass.

Remarks were made by a number of the guests. Mrs. Jennie F. Beers spoke of the natural beauty of the country near her home in Colorado, and explained their manner of raising crops on land where irrigation is necessary. She also told of the work of the suffragettes in helping to make Colorado a dry state.

Mrs. Valley Fair Bressler spoke of the great pleasure it was to her and to her mother to be present at the reunion, as it had been 15 years since her last visit here. She spoke of Manhattan as a fine city, and of Kansas as also a prohibition state where women vote.

Margie Beers Ozanne told of her great pleasure in meeting the relatives as it had been several years since her last visit.

Burgess Fitch said that the Kansas people were boosters, and that he had enjoyed four years there. Mrs. Burgess Fitch said that she was proud to be a Fitch, and was glad to bring a new Fitch, her little son.

Mrs. Barbara Moudy said that she was proud that she could say that she helped to make Kansas a free state, and expressed her pleasure at being present.

A motion was made by Ida F. Mason and seconded by Gladys Fitch, that a report of the reunion be sent to all who sent greetings. The motion was carried.

The following officers were reelected for the ensuing year: President, John Fitch; treasurer, Mrs. Ida F. Mason; treasurer of the Fitch fund, Wm. S. Fitch; secretary, Kenneth F. Beers.

81 responded to roll call, 66 being absent. The Fitch family is glad to welcome Verne E. McComb, husband of Cecil Fitch McComb, and the two little grandsons of Mrs. Sarah Stratton, Mark Elliot Statton, son of Leander and Edna Stratton, born Oct, 19, 1913 - and Elizabeth Bolby, daughter of Claude and Helen Stratton Bolby, born Nov. 15, 1913, also, the little son of Carl and Rowene Fitch Hartnett, Hubert Fitch Hartnett, born Feb. 5, 1914 and Ralph David Fitch, son of Kelsey and Artie Fitch born Jan. 31, 1914. Three visitors were present, Mrs. Barbara Moudy and her daughter Mrs. Zent and granddaughter, Miss Mary Zent.

A rising vote of thanks was given to Mrs. Perry Fitch and

her children who had done so much toward making the reunion such a splendid success.

Mr. & Mrs. Jerome Gloyd offered their home for the next reunion to be held on July 5, 1915.

John Fitch, President

Kenneth F. Beers, Secretary.

1915

July 5, 1915

On July 5th, 1915 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Mason at New Haven, Indiana was held the fourteenth annual reunion of the Nathaniel and Sarah E. Fitch family.

The weather was very cool accompanied by a strong wind, but this prevented neither old or young from enjoying the pleasures of the day.

At the noon hour the usual bountiful basket dinner was spread and the usual number of hungry Fitches were more than satisfied.

The business meeting was called at 2:00 P.M. at which time sixty-eight answered to roll call.

The following visitors were present:

Father and mother Mason, Mrs. Wesley Hursh, Mr. and Mrs. George Young of Troy, Ohio; Mr. and Mrs. Pat Griffin and daughter, Margaret and the Misses Harriet and Florence Hartzell.

Greetings were read from Mrs. Jennie Fitch Beers of Holly, Col., and from her daughter Mrs. Marjorie Beers Ozanne of Neenah, Wis. The letters were full of good wishes for the listeners and were greatly appreciated. Mrs. Ozanne spoke of the addition of a son Robert Williard to the family roster.

Mr. Young was then called upon and gave in a few words their interest in the Fitch families and their reunions expressing their thanks for the pleasant day and for the good thoughts and well wishes of friends and relatives that they would carry home.

Following this a letter was read from Mrs. F. W. Diehl of Danville, N. Y. Mrs. Diehl was formerly Miss Pearle Fitch and is greatly interested in the past history of the Fitch family. By request she sent a copy of some very interesting data concerning the family history as far back as 1622 and promised a complete copy as soon as she was able to get the same worked up.

The data was read and commented upon. It was decided to keep this heneology and upon receipt of the completed copy have the same published in booklet form in order that any desiring them might be supplied.

The treasurer, Dr. Mason, reported \$8.10 on deposit. Bills to the amount of \$5.00 were presented and allowed. Treasurer Fitch fund reported \$8.00 collected.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year. President -- B. C. Fitch, Garrett, Indiana.



1915 Fitch Reunion at Ida and Mel Mason's in
New Haven, IN

Mathias with hat in hand



The Fitch Flag

1916

July 4, 1916

65th
The fourteenth annual reunion of the Nathaniel and Sarah E. Fitch families was held at the beautiful country home of Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Gloyd on July 4, 1916.

The day was a perfect one and all present enjoyed the pleasures afforded by such an occasion. The hearty hand-shake - the glad "How - do - you - do" and the friendly "Hello there!" that makes us all feel life's worth while, together with an ideal day made this one of the best meetings we have had. Several members were absent on account of sickness.

Visitors were present from Gary, South Bend, Ft. Wayne and New Haven.

At the noon hour fifty - one were seated at one long table heavily laden with the many, many good things which the mothers and sisters are known to prepare.

During the afternoon games and contests were enjoyed. Following this the business meeting was held. The report of the 1915 meeting was read and accepted.

After roll call it was decided that a correction should be made on the family roster of several names which were not entered correctly.

Greetings were read from several absent members. The treasurer reported the general collection to be \$2.68.

Bills to the amount of \$3.75 were allowed. Treasurer for Fitch fund reported \$6.65 collected making a total fund of \$38.08.

The old officers were retained for another year. By a unanimous vote of the family the home of Emma and Allen Hartzell at New Haven, Indiana was decided on as the meeting place for 1917.

Following a vote of thanks to the Gloyd family readings were given by Marguerite Stratton and Mary Ellen Kell.

America was sung and the meeting adjourned.

Bert C. Fitch, President

Gladys Fitch, Secretary

Secretary -- Gladys Fitch, Hometown, Ind.
Treasurer -- Rolland H. Fitch, "
Treasurer Fitch Fund -- William Fitch, Ft. Wayne, Ind.

A vote of thanks was extended Dr. and Mrs. Mason for the pleasant day that all had enjoyed and to the outgoing officers for the faithful performance of their duties.

By invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Gloyd, it was decided to hold the next reunion at their home on July 4, 1916.

B. C. Fitch, President

Gladys Fitch, Secretary

1917

July 4, 1917

At the beautiful country home of Mr. and Mrs. Allen Hartzell on July 4, 1917 was held the fifteenth annual reunion of the Nathaniel and Sarah E. Fitch families. *16 ix*

The day was one long to be remembered by those present -- eighty two in number. A more beautiful day could not have been wished for than this one.

There was an unusually large number of young men present and soon after dinner a ball game was called which proved the main attraction until the business meeting was called at 2:30.

After the singing of American the minutes of the 1916 meeting were read and accepted. Following this the roll was called and eight-two responded, this being of of the largest if not the largest number present at any reunion. New names were added to the roster as follows:

Arthur Gideon Houser by marriage to Marie Elaine Fitch on October 26, 1916. Charles Allen Leaycraft by marriage to Beatrice Victoria Fitch on January 3, 1917. Audrey Marcell born to Mr. and Mrs. Verne E. McComb. Marjorie Jane born to Mr. and Mrs. Leander Stratton on November 27, 1916. Claudia Bowlby born to Mr. and Mrs. Claude Henry Bowlby.

Greetings were read from Mrs. Marjorie Ozanne of Neenah, Wis., Allen Fitch of South St. Paul, Minneasota and from Mrs. May Harvey, Minneapolis, Minn.

There being no unfinished business, new business was taken up.

The investment of \$15.00 in the Huntertown Cemetery Association was discussed this was for the purpose of keeping up the lot of Nathaniel and Sarah E. Fitch for all time to come and also helping in the upkeeps of the cemetery. A committee was appointed to attend the next meeting of the board of dieectors of the cemetery association and further investigate the proposition and were given power to act in the matter according to their judgment -- committee was as follows; Mathias Fitch, Amos Fitch and Otis Gloyd.

A motion was made and carried giving the secretary permission to purchase with funds from the treasury a new book in which to keep the Fitch Family record.

Treasurer reported \$3.08 on deposit. General collection \$3.31.

W. S. Fitch, treasurer of Fitch Fund, reported 1917 payments to be \$16.17 making a total of \$53.25, report accepted.



1917 Fitch
fam. Reunion
At
Hartzell's

The following officers were retained for the coming year:

President -- Bert C. Fitch
Secretary -- Gladys Fitch
Treasurer --- Rolland H. Fitch

Dr. D. N. Fitch and family of Auburn, Ind., kindly extended an invitation to their home for the 1918 reunion, this was heartily accepted.

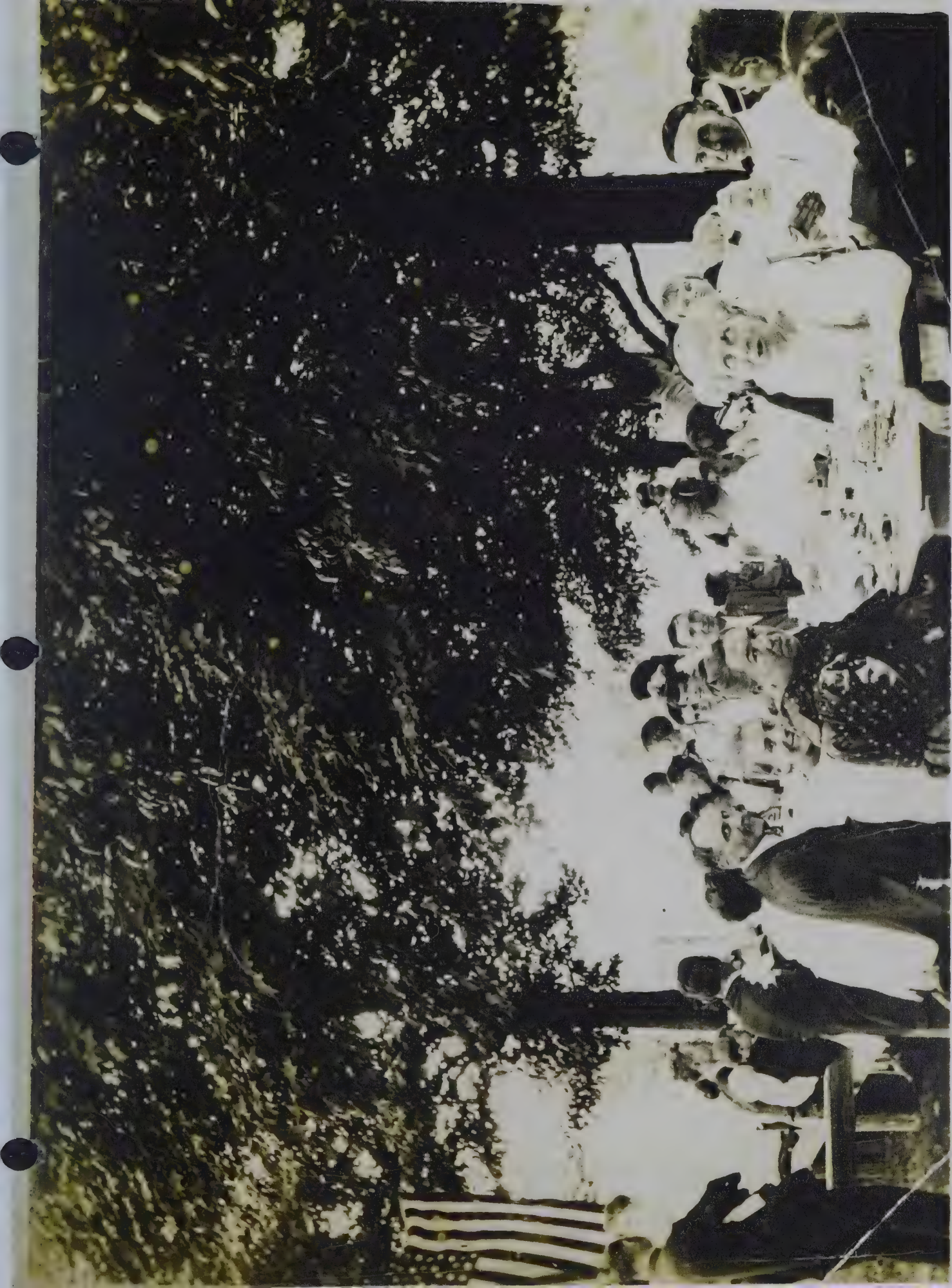
Several were called on for remarks those responding were:

Mrs. Jennie Beers, Holly, Colorado
Mrs. Sarah Stratton, Gary, Indiana
Mr. and Mrs. Roy Beers, Rochester, N. Y.
A. G. Houser, Harrett, Ind.
Verne McComb, Huntertown, Ind.
Margurite Stratton of Gary, Ind. responded with two readings that were much enjoyed.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Bert C. Fitch, President

Gladys Fitch, Secretary





Belle Hollopeter Fitch

A vote of thanks was extended to the Amos Fitch and family for a very pleasant day.

The family was invited to the home of Mr. & Mrs. John Fitch for the 1919 reunion. This was heartily accepted. The meeting was then adjourned.

B. C. Fitch, President

Gladys Fitch, Secretary

1919

July 4, 1919

1876

The ~~seventeenth~~ annual reunion of the Nathaniel and Sarah E. Fitch families was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Fitch near Huntertown on July 4, 1919.

Seventy family members were present and six members of the George Young family of Troy, Ohio were in attendance. It was a real Fourth day with plenty of very warm sunshine. The barn had been fitted up with carpet, tables plenty of comfortable chairs and in fact all that was needed to make it an inviting spot for all. With the arrival of guests came baskets, boxes, pans and jugs with every conceivable good things to eat, even to noodles. A fine dinner was served to the seventy present.

At 2:30 a business meeting was called. The minutes of the 1918 meeting were read and approved. This was followed by roll call and responses from some of the visiting members. Those responding were Mrs. Jennie Beers, Marjorie Ozanne and Alfred Young. A letter was read from Marguerette Stratton.

Bills were allowed amounting to \$5.20. Postage on cards and letters 60¢ and balance on ice cream \$4.60.

Memorial committee reported had no report to make. Fitch Fund secretary reported all payments were not in and he was unable to make his annual report.

General collection was then taken amounting to \$6.56.

Kenneth Beers and Fred Fitch recently returned from overseas service in the World War gave lengthy and interesting talks on their experiences at home and abroad while in the service.

Dr. and Mrs. D. N. Fitch invited the family to hold their 1920 reunion at their home or in Eckhart park in Auburn. After some discussion it was decided to hold the reunion in Eckhart park.

A vote of thanks was given John Fitch and family for the pleasant day all had enjoyed.

Bert C. Fitch, President

Gladys Fitch, Secretary

1920

July 4, 1920

1920 -
The eighteenth annual reunion of the Nathaniel and Sarah E. Fitch families was held at the home of Dr. and Mrs. D. N. Fitch at Auburn, July 5, 1920.

The day was clear and warm. About 10:00 o'clock the guests began to arrive, each group bringing many good things to eat in their well filled baskets. At noon tables were set under the large oak tree and a delicious dinner was enjoyed by the fifty three guests that had assembled.

The business meeting was held soon after the dinner. The minutes of the 1919 meeting were read and approved. After the roll call greetings were read from Mrs. Valley Bressler, Mrs. Margie Ozanne, Mr. Geo. Young, Allen Fitch and J. B. Fitch. Mr. and Mrs. Claude Bowlby from Gary, Indiana were visiting members.

Bills for \$12.40 were allowed. The treasurer reported \$6.81. The Fitch Fund report was \$101.20. The general collection was \$11.30.

There was a unanimous vote for old officers to be retained. The secretary, however, resigned and her resignation was accepted after some deliberation. Helen Fitch was elected to fill her vacancy.

The committee on resolutions gave its report. The report was accepted and it was decided to place it on record.

A committee consisting of Mrs. Arthur Houser, Mrs. Hurschel Fitch, John Fitch, Ivan Fitch and Arthur Houser were appointed for the entertainment for the 1921 meeting.

A vote of thanks was given to Dr. and Mrs. D. N. Fitch for the pleasant day enjoyed.

Dr. and Mrs. M. A. Mason invited the family to hold the next reunion at their home in New Haven. The invitation was heartily accepted and the meeting adjourned.

Bert C. Fitch, President

Helen C. Fitch, Secretary.

1921

July 4, 1921

2021

The nineteenth annual reunion of the Nathaniel and Sarah E. Fitch families was held at the home of Dr. and Mrs. M. A. Mason of New Haven on July 4, 1921. The weather was ideal and sixty-six members gathered to enjoy the day.

Many well filled baskets were stored away in the garage until the noon hour when the usual good things with plenty of noodles were spread on the long tables under the trees. Aunt Ida realized the disadvantage of the little Fitches and prepared a table especially for them.

A fine collection of photographs dating back to the "bare foot days" afforded much amusement and comment.

At 2:00 P.M. a business meeting was called by the President and the report of the last meeting was read and approved. The memorial committee reported on the death of Christian Fair and Charles Leaycraft.

Cousin Schuyler of Seattle, who had not been with us for thirteen years gave a very interesting talk. Others responding were Mr. J. B. Fitch, Elizabeth Bressler of Manhattan.

Greetings were read from Uncle Allen and Aunt Emma from Portland, Oregon. Aunt Jennie Beers and a wire from Cousins Kenneth and May from Lake Geneva.

Mr. Stouder of Fort Wayne who was interested in the Fitch family history gave a short talk on the early settlers.

A bill of \$6.30 was allowed for printing. Treasurer reported \$5.70 on hand. The Fitch fund reported it had \$117.00 on hand. General collection \$13.35.

The old officers were retained for another year. Brother Harvey invited the family to meet with them for the 1922 reunion and it was heartily accepted.

A vote of thanks was extended to Dr. and Mrs. M. A. Mason for the pleasant day and the meeting adjourned.

B. C. Fitch, President

Helen Fitch, Secretary

1922

July 4, 1922

21st

The twentieth annual reunion of the Nathaniel and Sarah E. Fitch families was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Fitch of Huntertown, July 4, 1922.

The weather was unusually cool for the season. At about 10 o'clock relatives began to arrive each group bringing many nice eats in their well filled baskets.

At the noon hour tables were set under the large maple trees and a delicious dinner was enjoyed by all.

Visitors present were; Mrs. Alice Strayer, Mrs. Pat Griffin and daughter, Margaret.

In the afternoon a business meeting was called. The minutes of 1921 meeting were read and approved. Fifty-eight members responded to the roll call.

New names added to the family roster were Margaret Elaine Houser and Danford Maurice McComb.

Greetings were read from Mr. and Mrs. Allen Fitch.

Bills amounting to \$7.30 were allowed. Treasurers reported \$6.01 on deposit and \$127.00 in Fitch fund. General collection \$9.37.

The memorial committee reported the death of Allen Hartzell.

John Fitch was elected secretary of Fitch fund.

Owing to the illness of Helen Fitch secretary, Alma Fitch was elected to fill the vacancy.

At the suggestion of Aunt Ida to send Cousin Helen a remembrance it was unanimously decided to send it in the form of a collection gathered from the members present. Also more to be sent later at the visit of the President and Secretary and Treasurer of the Fitch fund.

A vote of thanks was extended to Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Fitch and family.

At the kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Otis Gloyd to hold the next reunion at their home the meeting adjourned.

B. C. Fitch, President
Alma Fitch, Secretary

1923

22nd
July 4, 1923

At the beautiful country home of Mrs. J. D. Gloyd was held the twenty-first annual reunion of the Nathaniel and Sarah E. Fitch families.

The day was a perfect one and all enjoyed the pleasures afforded by such an occasion.

The dinner was served in cafeteria style, a new plan introduced in the reunion by Aunt Fie which worked out very nicely.

Mrs. Alice Goff was visiting guest.

Expressions of regret on the absence of Uncle Si, his first on record, were heard from the lips of many.

During the after noon games were enjoyed. Following this a business meeting was held. The minutes of 1922 were read and approved. 55 members responded to the roll call. Greetings from Helen Fitch were read.

Bills allowed amounting to \$11.23. Treasurer reported \$8.08. Owing to the illness of Uncle Si, John Fitch, Secretary of the Fitch fund, one of our most faithful attendants was absent, therefore, no report.

Memorial committee reported death of Fanny Vandolah Fitch. New names added to the family roster were as follows: Estella Benson Fitch by marriage to Robert Fitch. Clarence Davis by marriage to Carolyn Kell. Mr. Kellster by marriage to Lotta Kell. Betty Jean born to Fred and Bessie Fitch. James Stirlen born to Hurschel and Mabel Fitch. Donald Lee born to Leander and Clara Stratton. William Harvey born to Ernest and Bernice Fitch. Russel Kenneth born to Verne and Cecile McComb. John Alexander son of Bertha Beers Hunt by adoption.

Motion was made and carried to retain the old officers.

Several were called on for remarks those responding were Schuyler Fitch, Kenneth Beers and Clarence Davis.

Motion was made by Mrs. Ida Mason that written resolutions signed by the brothers and sisters be sent to Mathias Fitch also these resolutions be spread on report motion carried.

A vote of thanks was extended to the Gloyd family for the pleasant day enjoyed by all.

Mrs. N. Fitch kindly extended an invitation to meet in 1924 at their home this was heartily accepted and the meeting adjourned.
Bert Fitch, Pres. Alma Fitch, Secretary

1924

July 4, 1924.

^{3rd}
The twenty-second annual reunion of the Nathaniel and Sarah E. Fitch families was held at the home of Dr. and Mrs. D. N. Fitch of Auburn on July 4, 1924.

The weather was cool but this prevented neither old nor young from enjoying the pleasures of the day.

At the noon hour the usual bountiful basket dinner was served to which all did ample justice.

At 2.00 P. M. the business meeting was called to order to which 38 responded to the roll call. Greetings were read from Allen Fitch of So. St. Paul and the four Sisters touring the West. Bills amounting to \$10.50 were allowed. Treasurer of the Fitch Fund reported \$130.00 on deposit. No report was given by the memorial committee.

The name of Mary Stratton Bowlby, daughter of Claude and Helen Bowlby was added to the family roster.

The present officers were retained for the following year.

At the intercession of Mrs. Ida Mason a motion was made by Harvey Fitch that \$50 be allowed for George Fitch, this amount to be taken from the Fitch Fund.

A vote of thanks was extended to Dr. Fitch and Family for the very pleasant day. At the kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Fitch to meet next fourth at their home in Huntertown, the meeting adjourned.

signed by the proper authorities and returned to the Fitch family
these resolutions were read and approved

1925

4-2
July 4, 1925.

The twenty-third annual reunion of the Nathaniel and Sarah E. Fitch families was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Fitch of Hunteertown, July 4, 1925.

The weather was cloudy and rainy. The natural beautiful location with its lofty hill overlooking the town and the well-kept lawn, regardless of the weather made this a pleasant place for the occasion.

After the usual amount of handskahing, greetings, and congratulations, dinner was served to which all did ample justice.

After dinner the annual business meeting was called to order. Eighty-seven members responded to the roll call, the largest attendance on record. The minutes of 1924 were read and approved after a slight correction.

Greetings were read from LeRoy Beers, Rochester, N.Y., Mrs. Valley Fair Bressler, Manhattan, Kansas, Charles and Lou Fitch, South St. Paul, Minn.

Visitors from distant cities were: Mrs. Francelia Fair, Alden, Kansas.

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Kephart, Denver, Colorado.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Beers, Chicago, Illinois.

Bills amounting to \$14.93 were allowed. Treasurer reported \$10.26 on deposit. Treasurer of Fitch Fund reported \$130.00 on deposit. General collection \$17.03.

The old officers were retained for the ensuing year, which was followed by some discussion. The officers are as follows:

Bert C. Fitch, President
Alma Urbine Fitch, Secretary
Holland Fitch, Treasurer
Gladys Fitch, Historian
John B. Fitch, President of Fitch Fund
Emma Hartzell, Secretary of Fitch Fund

The Fitch family had the pleasure of welcoming to their circle four newly weds:

Harry Edward Wert by marriage to Marguerite Fitch
Raymond Hawver by marriage to Helen Fitch
Marion James More by marriage to Emma Fitch
Morrine Little by marriage to Oscar Fitch

Other names added to the family roster are as follows:

Dorothy Luella, daughter of Vern and Cecile Fitch McComb
Alice Suzanne, daughter of Ernest and Bernice Strayer Fitch
Enid Davis, daughter of Clarence and Carolyn Kell Davis.

For the pleasure of these new members present, the genealogy of the Fitch Family was again read by the historian, Gladys Fitch.

A motion was made by Harvey Fitch that the minutes be sent to all who sent greetings. The motion was carried. Also a motion was made by Amos Fitch that 10% of the General Collection be added to the Fitch Fund; this motion was carried.

Mrs. Ida Mason, Chairman of the Memorial Committee, reported the death of Mrs. Jane Beers, also the death of Mathias Fitch which occurred the previous year. In giving this report she gave a very interesting talk on the hardships of her parents' early life, the faithful fulfillment of parental duties, the beauties and advantages of being reared in the country and the many helps in the formation of character which she received from her deceased sister, which proved an incentive to all who had the pleasure of hearing the address.

From this address Rolland received the inspiration that perhaps it would be interesting to gather incidents pertaining to the life of his grandparents. So great was his enthusiasm that he volunteered to gather this information. Kelsey D. Fitch made a motion which invested Rolland with full power to act.

Several were called upon for remarks; those responding were:

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Kephart, Kenneth Beers, Harry Wert, James Marion More, Raymond Hawver.

A vote of thanks was extended to Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Fitch and family and the officers for their hospitality and services.

At the kind invitation of Otis Gloyd to meet next fourth at their home, the meeting adjourned with the singing of the hymn, "Blest be the Tie That Binds."

A Letter written for the Reunion of 1925:

Eighty- five years ago the fourth of last month Nathaniel Fitch and Sarah Elizabeth DeLong were married and began in the forest of Perry township to hew out a home for themselves and bear a family of fifteen children.

There are now fifty-three families scattered all over the United States with 189 members from this branch.

To raise a family of 15 children this day and age, a man would need to be multi-millionaire. Personally I'm glad it was my lot to be born and reared in the woods on the banks of little Willow Creek. I think I would have missed half of the joys of childhood. When I came into this home I made an even dozen; six boys and six girls.

I remember my older brothers and sisters as being young men and women And I received most of my care from them. I think it well for the present generation to be told of the hardships of our elders. At least it thrills me with pride to think of our parents undertaking to rear a family with no more to do with than ours had. We were not raised on lolly-pops and all-day suckers.

First and always they agreed their children should have an education, a thing they were both deprived of to a large extent. We were never permitted to stay out of school to help on the farm. Our Mother and Father were manufacturers. Everything that was needed that could not be bought was made by one of them.

Our Mother was our best doctor and nurse, our preacher and teacher. She was our lawyer who laid down the code of justice. Mother was the policewoman that kept order. And also the judge that hands out the punishment as all families at times need.

I have given a little of our family history. I wish to speak of our oldest sister, Mary Jane Fitch Beers, wife of Levi Beers. It is with sadness we met the passing of our family circle. Last year Mathias and his wife Frances Fitch left the circle. "Si" was the life of our reunions and we do miss him.

Our sister Jane had a vision for each of the younger members of the family. She helped our parents carry out their education plan. Three of us were taken to Wabash in her home and entered high school when she and Prof. Beers were teaching there.

I have many personal reasons to thank her for principles she taught me when a child. We had a circle later called the Six Fitch Sisters which was carried on for years until we were numbered five. On March 17th of this year our sister was called to her Heavenly home from the home of her daughter in Neenah,

Wisconsin. I'm sure she will meet her Pilot face to face. We are proud and glad for the five children that brother and sister Beers have left to better the world.

Given by Ida Fitch Mason, July 4, 1925

1926

July 4, 1927

25
The twenty-fourth annual reunion of the Nathaniel and Sarah E. Fitch families was held at the beautiful country home of Mr and Mrs Amos Fitch, near Hometown, Indiana on July 5, 1927.

Seventy-eight members of the family were present to greet one another and spend the one day of the YEAR together.

The day being an extremely hot one, the barn with its large hay lofts filled with the new mown hay was chosen as the coolest spot for the dining hall. After all present had sampled most every thing that the two long tables contained, they adjourned for a short time to wander and talk some more.

At two o'clock the members of the family met 'neath the trees on the front lawn for the annual business meeting.

The minutes of the meeting of 1925 were read and approved, after which the members responded to the roll call.

Greetings were read from the following; Mrs Valley Fair Bressler, Mr and Mrs Lois Kephart, Allen Fitch, Lee Roy Beers, May Harvey and Burgess Fitch.

Remarks were made by Kenneth and Mae Beers, Mrs Ruie Fair, Mrs Frank Fair and Mrs Oscar Fitch.

The following new names were added to the family Roster; Oscar Allen, son of Maurine and Oscar Fitch. David Evan, son of Carolyn and Clarence Davis. Lois Byerely Fitch, wife of Maurice Fitch. Charles Cable, husband of Grace Fitch.

Bills were allowed for an order to be drawn upon the treasurer for the amount. The treasurer reported \$236 on deposit. The treasurer reported \$145.20 on deposit in the Fitch fund. General collection \$14.55.

A motion was made by John Fitch that new officers be elected for the next year. The motion being carried the following officers were elected; Kenneth Beers, President; K.D. Fitch, Vice President; Elizabeth Kell, Secretary; Ivan Fitch, Treasurer; Gladys Fitch, Historian. The Officers for the Fitch fund were retained for the following year.

A motion was made by K.D. Fitch that the Brothers and Sisters of the original family contribute incidents of their earlier life to the family historian to be kept on record. The motion was carried.

Since motions were in order another was made by John Fitch, that a committee be appointed to examine the Fitch relics, which are located at Swinney park, the motion being carried the following committee was appointed Bessie Kell, Chairman; Ida Mason, Gladys Fitch, and K.D. Fitch.

1927

The 25th Annual Reunion of the Nathaniel and Sarah E. Fitch Family was held at the Country home of Mrs. Fittelia Gloyd and Otis Gloyd on July 4, 1927.

The weather was very pleasant and the morning was spent saying "How-de-do" or Hello and Who are You". The usual abundance of Eats were enjoyed by all. Part of the afternoon was spent in playing Baseball, Barn Yard Golf and Croquet.

Meeting was called to order by President, Kenneth Beers. Minutes of last meeting were read and approved. 89 members answered present to Roll Call. Greetings were read by Kelsey Fitch, from Mr. & Mrs. Allen Fitch of So. St. Paul, Minn. Valetta F. Bressler of Manhattan, Kansas. Alice & Louis Kephart of Denver, Colo. Margery Ozanne of Neenah, Wis. Young Family of Troy, Ohio. Mrs. Jim Fair and Mr. Nobles, out of town guests, each gave a short talk. Additions to family were read by Gladys Fitch. By marriage - Sarah Elizabeth Bressler, wife of New babies - Mary Bell Hawver, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Hawver. Bryce Gordon Fitch, son of Maurice Fitch.

Reports of special committees

Report on Relics at Swinney Park Museum given by Mrs. Bessie Kell, Chairman of Committee. She advised a record was kept of all Relics loaned to Museum. We were urged to place other Relics in Museum, such as Anvil, Bear Trap and other things made by Grandfather Fitch. Each member of family were requested to take the opportunity to visit the Museum and tell the custodians, Mr. & Mrs. Taylor, that they belong to the Fitch Family. Mrs. Emma Hartzell, John Fitch and Mrs. Helen Bowlby gave a talk on the Relics. Same committee was re-appointed for another year.

Treasurers report read and approved	\$16.40 on hand
Fitch Fund Treasurer reported	156.00 in Savings
The Account in New Haven Bank	

Reminiscences on the life of Nathaniel and Sarah E. Fitch were given by Kenneth Beers, John Fitch, Bessie Kell, Bert Fitch, Otis Gloyd, Stella Gloyd, Althea Fitch and Bessie Kell. These memories were very interesting, especially to the younger generation. The younger generation can hardly realize some of the hard-ships that our Grandfather and Grandmother or Great Grandfather and Great Grandmother endured. It was requested these reminiscences be written up and kept on record, and perhaps be put in book form.

Election of officers - Kenneth Beers, President
Kelsey Fitch, Vice President
Ivan Fitch, Treasurer
Verma Fitch, Secretary

1928

21
The 26th Annual Reunion of the Nathaniel and Sarah E. Fitch Family was held at the Country home of Mr. & Mrs. Parker Fitch and family on July 4, 1928.

The day was a perfect one and all present enjoyed the pleasures of the day. The usual abundance of Eats were enjoyed by all. The men spent most of the day playing Horse Shoe.

The meeting was called to order by our President, Kenneth Beers.

Minutes of last meeting were read and approved.

69 members answered present to Roll Call

Greetings were read by the Secretary, from

The Rochester Fitch Beers Family

Mrs. E. D. Fair and Family

Mr. & Mrs. Peter Harvey and Kenneth

Mrs. Ada Drake

ms Sarah Stratton

Mr. & Mrs. Durkee of So. St. Paul, Minn. and Mrs. Leach, out of town guests, each gave a short talk.

Roland Fitch, read an editorial on the "Family Reunion Scene" which was very interesting.

Report of Committee on Relics - by Bessie Kell. Motion made that collections of relics be called the "Walter Fitch" Collection. Aunt Ida Mason seconded the motion. Motion made and seconded that Fire Tongs be placed in Museum. Motion made to see if some of the relics could not be brought to the next Reunion. Motion rejected after some discussion. The Relic Committee consists of Bessie Kell, Aunt Ida Mason and Kelsey D. Fitch.

Silverware Committee reported that silverware should not be purchased at this time. Motion made and seconded that we accept silverware committee report.

Treasurers report was read and accepted, \$9.58 on hand David Fitch was Treasurer Protem.

Report of Fitch Fund by Secretary, John Fitch and Treasurer, Aunt Emma Hartzell was given. We have \$156.00 in the New Haven bank.

The usual collection was taken and we received \$11.38.10.87

Additions to family were read by Gladys Fitch, Historian

Births - *Daughter* daughter of Otis and Esther Fitch
Kenneth Beers son of Oscar and Maurine Fitch
John Alfred, son of Charles and Grace Caple

By Marriage - Verma F. Fitch to Burl L. Smith, Aug. 31, 1927.

Death - Lawrence J., infant son of Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Fitch.

Election of Officers - Motion made and seconded that present officers be re-elected for another year.

Kenneth Beers, President
Kelsey D. Fitch, Vice President
Ivan Fitch, Treasurer
Verma F. Smith, Secretary

Invitations for Reunion next year were extended by Aunt Fie Gloyd, Uncle David Fitch and Carolyn Kell Davis. Motion made and seconded that we go to Aunt Fie's.

A Motion was made and seconded that Vice President ^{arrange to get} buy Ice Cream for next reunion.

A Motion was made and seconded that all bills be allowed.

A report of George Fitch was given by Aunt Ida,. She reported ~~that~~ ^{that} he ~~was~~ well and happy.

A motion was made and seconded that a copy of minutes be sent to those members of the family who were not present.

A motion was made and seconded that we give a rising vote of thanks to Mr. & Mrs. Parker Fitch in appreciation of their hospitality

Rising vote of thanks was given to Aunt Ida Mason for the good deeds she has done for the Fitch Family.

Meeting was closed by Prayer by Aunt Ida

1929

28
July 4, 1929

The 27th Annual Reunion of the Nathaniel and Sarah E. Fitch Family was held at the Country Home of Mrs. Fiteilia Gloyd and Otis Gloyd on July 4, 1929.

The weather was very pleasant and the morning was spent saying "Hello and Who are you". The usual abundance of Eats were enjoyed by all. The men spent most of the day playing Horse Shoe.

The meeting was called to order by our Vice President, Kelsey D. Fitch.

Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Roll call - 69 members were present and 4 visitors, making total attendance of 74.

Greetings were read by the Secretary from:

Margie B. Ozanne	Neenah, Wis.
J.B. Fitch	Manhattan, Kansas
Elizabeth Bressler Gartner	Long Beach, Calif.
Vallie Fair Bressler	Wamego, Kansas
Francelia Fair	"
Mrs. & Mrs. Edward Fair & family	"
Mr. & Mrs. J.H. Fair & Sara	"
LeRoy F. Beers	Rochester, N.Y.
Mabel Durkee	So. St. Paul, Minn.

Report of Relic Committee by Bessie Kell

Report of Fitch Fund by John Fitch and Aunt Emma Hartzell
They reported \$199.23 in Fund.

Report of Historian - Gladys Fitch.

3 marriages Floretta Fitch to Geo. Wyatt
Ivan Fitch to Nancy Davis
Forest Fitch to Viola Manhesmith
Births Son born to Mr. & Mrs. Otis Fitch, Apr. 5, 1929
Warren John
Daughter born to Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Davis
Dec. 28, 1929 Sharon Leone
Baby Mr. & Mrs. Fred Fitch

Daughter born to Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Hawver
Helen Holmes

Deaths

(Aug. 13, 1928)
Clarence Nobles husband of Margaret Stratton Nobles
Kenneth Beers, son of Roy Beers - Jan. 1929

Fitch Family Association report. Frank Fitch made motion that life membership be taken in Association, under name of Historian or Nathaniel and Sarah E. Fitch Family. Seconded by Aunt Ida Mason. Cost \$10.00

Treasurers report - Ivan Fitch \$13.45 balance on hand

Bills -Ice Cream	\$10.75
Printing	3.25

Motion made and seconded that bills be allowed.

Collection was taken at this time. \$14.30 was received.

Election of officers - Motion made and seconded that Present officers be re-elected for another year.

Kenneth Beers - President
Kelsey D. Fitch-Vice President
Ivan Fitch - Treasurer
Verma F. Smith - Secretary

Aunt Ida had charge of Memorial Services

Motion moved and seconded that place of meeting for next year be decided by Officers.

Meeting closed by Prayer by Aunt Ida.

Aunt Ida Mason had charge of Memorial Services.

Motion made and seconded that place of meeting for next year be decided by Officers.

Meeting closed by singing America.

K D Fitch Vice Pres
President

1930

July 4, 1930

129
The 28th Annual Reunion of the Nathaniel and Sarah E. Fitch Family was held at the Country Home of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Kell on July 4, 1930.

The weather was very warm, but this did not prevent anyone from enjoying the pleasures of the day.

After the usual amount of handshaking and greetings, a cafeteria style dinner was served to 78 members and 1 visitor.

The meeting was called to order by the President, Kenneth Beers. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Greetings were read from Francellia Fitch Fair, Alden, Kansas; Margie B. Ozanne of Neenah, Wis., and Youngs from Troy, Ohio.

Aunt Emma Hartzell gave a report of the Fitch Fund. There is \$217.00 in savings account.

The Historian, Gladys Fitch, read a letter from Roscoe Conklin Fitch of Detroit about the National Fitch Family Association. A motion was made and seconded that we send \$10.00 for Life Membership in this Association. She also announced that in 1935 there would be a National Fitch Reunion held in Philadelphia.

A motion was made that any "Fitch" living anywhere be invited to our Reunion, if they express a desire to attend.

A report of the Relic Committee was given by Bessie Kell. The bear trap and anvil of Great Grandfather Fitch were displayed during the day and created much interest. Aunt Ida Mason is going to get the pictures of Great Grandfather and Great Grandmother Fitch from Uncle Dave Fitch and take to the Museum. It was also decided that she take the Bear Trap.

The Treasurer, Ivan Fitch, reported a balance of \$13.75. Report was accepted. Bills were allowed for \$9.00 for Ice Cream and \$3.25 for printing of invitations.

Harvey Fitch was given a rising vote of thanks for fixing stone and grave of Great Grandfather and Great Grandmother Fitch.

Election of officers - Motion made and seconded that present officers be re-elected for another year. Kenneth Beers, President; Kelsey D. Fitch, Vice President; Ivan Fitch, Treasurer and Verma F. Smith, Secretary.

1931

July 4, 1931

30

The 29th Annual Reunion of the Nathaniel and Sarah E. Fitch family was held at the country home of Mr. & Mrs. Fred Fitch, July 4, 1931.

After the usual amount of handshaking and greetings, a fine dinner was served in cafeteria style to 82 members and guests.

The president, Kenneth Beers, not being present, Kelsey D. Fitch, vice president, called the meeting to order and we all sang "America".

The minutes of the last meeting were read by Erma More, Sec. pro-tem, and approved as read.

Greetings were read from Kenneth Beers, L. F. Beers, Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Hawver, Scyuler Fitch and family, Franceilla Fair and family. All were very sorry they could not be present.

Aunt Emma Hartzell gave a report of the Fitch Fund. There is about \$225.00 in this fund.

The historian, Gladys Fitch, reported two new babies, Maxine Joan, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Otis Fitch. Jane Stirlin, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Hawver. Marriages, Thelma Fitch to Ralph Grist, Roland Fitch to Margaret Gutermuth, Jake Kell to *Cerie Aden*, Margie Fitch to Laurin Shrik, David Fitch to Effie *Burke Leck*.
Maryne McDonald to Loren Fack

A memorial service was given by Aunt Ida Mason for all our loved ones gone on before. Our family circle was broken by the deaths of *Anne* Fitch, Irving Ozanne, Louis Kephart and Althea Fitch.

Oscar Fitch, Treas. Pro-tem, reported a balance of \$5.75. Bills were read and allowed for ice cream, \$8.50, Invitations, \$2.25. Balance \$10.75. The treasure being low, we proceeded to pass the hat.

Several guests from a distance were present, Aunt Lou Fitch of So. St. Paul, who has not been present for 26 years. Also, Mabel Durkee, Mr. & Mrs. Peter Harvy and son, Kenneth from So. St. Paul, and the Young family of *Springfield, Ohio*.

Dave and Roland Fitch introduced their brides and both said they were happy to join the Fitch tribe.

Election of officers:

President - John Fitch
Vice Pres. - Roland Fitch
Sec'y - Erma More
Treas. - Harry Wert
Historian - Gladys Fitch
Memorial - Ida Mason
Treas. Fitch Fund - Emma Hartzell
Sec. Fitch Fund - Arthur Houser

1932

July 4, 1932

The 31st Annual Reunion of the Nathaniel and Sarah E. Fitch family was held at the country home of Amos Fitch, July 4, 1932.

After the usual "Helloes and How are you", a delicious dinner was served cafeteria style.

The President, John Fitch, called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the last meeting were read by Erma More, Secretary, and approved as read. We have 217 members on roll and 96 answered present. Greetings were read from Mrs. C. N. Fair, Mrs. E. D. Fair and the Fair family of Alden, Kansas, Mr. & Mrs. Peter Harvey & son of Minneapolis, Minn and Burgess Fitch of Manhattan, Kas.

Fitch Fund report by Aunt Amma Hartzell. We have about \$241.00 in New Haven bank, which closed its doors Dec. 11, 1931.

The historian, Gladys Fitch, reported 4 new babies: Kenneth Fitch Smith, son of Mr. & Mrs. Burl L. Smith; Anna Louise, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Jake Kell; Lynwood Randal, son of Mr. & Mrs. Forest Fitch; Patricia Lee, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Fred Fitch.

Aunt, Ida, chairman of memorial, reported no deaths during the year.

The Treasure, Harry Wert, reported a balance of \$2.51 on hand. Bills for July 4, 1932 were read and allowed: Ice Cream \$10.65; Invitations, \$2.20; Paper for Secretary book, \$.60. Total \$13.45. There being only \$2.51 in the treasury, we proceeded to pass the hat, and collected \$11.48, making a total of \$13.99 - bills \$13.45, leaving a balance on hand of \$.54.

Election of officers:

President - David N. Fitch
Vice " - Rolland Fitch
Secretary - Erma Fitch More
Treasure - Harry Wert

The following were made permanent officers:

Historian - Gladys Fitch
Memorial - Ida Mason
Treasure Fitch Fund - Emma Hartzell
Secretary Fitch Fund - Arthur Houser

Remarks by the following visitors:

Sarah and Harold Stratton of Parkersburg, W. Va.
Margaret Nobles of Parkersburg, W. Va.
Kenneth Beers of Chicago

The next meeting place is to be decided by the Vice President

A rising vote of thanks was given to Uncle Amos and Gladys for their kind hospitality.

The meeting place for next year is to be decided upon by the new Vice President, Roland Fitch.

A rising vote of thanks was given Mr. & Mrs. Fred Fitch and family for their kind hospitality.

The meeting was closed by singing "God Be With You Till We Meet Again".

President

Secretary

1933

July 4, 1933

The 32nd. annual reunion of the Nathaniel and Sarah E. Fitch family was held in the church grove at Huntertown.

The weather was pleasant, and after the usual greetings and a few games of horseshoe, a delicious cafeteria dinner was enjoyed by 110 members.

The minutes of the 1932 reunion were read and approved.

There are 231 on roll and 110 answered present.

Greetings and regrets were read from the Stratton and Noble Family of Parkersburg, West Virginia, and the Harvey Family of Minneapolis, Minn.

We were all mighty happy so many of the family from a distance could be with us; and by their fine talks we know they were glad to be with the Fitch Tribe again. They were: Jim Fair, wife Nina and daughter Sarah, of Kansas; Allen Fitch and wife Emma, of St. Paul; Alice Beers Kephart, of Denver; Bertha Beers Hunt and son Billie, of Detroit; Aunt Frank, of Alden, Kansas; and Mable Durkee, of St. Paul.

We had a short musical program by Phyllis and Ann McCombs.

Reports of the various committees were:

Historian, Gladys Fitch, reported a son born to Mr. and Mrs. Fred Fitch.

Memorial, Aunt Ida was very happy to report no deaths.

Fitch Fund report was then read by Aunt Emma, which showed a balance of \$219.62 in the New Haven State Bank whose doors are closed; and Aunt Emma has in her personal care a note for \$28.00 bearing 7% interest and \$7.00 in cash, making a grand total of \$254.62.

Treasurer's report was read and accepted.

Balance from last year	\$.54
Collection, July 4, 1933	22.29
Making a total of	<u>\$22.83</u>

219.62 + 22.29 + 7.93 = 249.84

The bills of the day were read and allowed.

It was reported that William S. Fitch is seriously ill. A motion was made and seconded that the Secretary send greetings and a cheerful message from the Fitch Family reunion.

Harvey Fitch made a motion the Secretary send the minutes to the absent sisters or brothers of the original Fitch family when they are unable to be present.

It was also moved and seconded to have the 1934 reunion at the church in Huntertown.

Before leaveing for home, ice cream was served and a few more games of horse shoe were enjoyed.

Balance July 4, 1933

\$7.93.

Collected July 4, 1934

~~\$12.17.~~

20.10.

20.10

Bills.

Ice Cream \$9.70.
 Amittations \$2.00.
 Rent for church \$2.50

total

21.03
 7.93

13.95

\$14.80

14.08

Balance July 4, 1934

~~\$5.00.~~

President

Secretary

1934

July 4, 1934

The 33rd annual reunion of the Nathaniel and Sarah E. Fitch family was held in the church grove at Hunteertown.

The weather was pleasant and after the usual greetings a delicious cafeteria dinner was enjoyed.

The meeting was opened by singing America and pledging allegiance to our Flag.

The minutes of 1933 reunion were read and approved.

We had the roll call and there are 227 on roll. 98 ^{members} answered present, & 6 guests making a total of 104.

Greetings were read from Allen and Emma Fitch of St. Paul, and a letter from ~~letter from~~ Francellia Fair of Kanas with a gift of \$5.00 inclosed, which was greatly appreciated.

Among those present from a distance were Sarah and Mark Straton of W. Virginia, Burgess and Alice Fitch and family of Kansas, Kenneth and May Beers of Chicago, and Mr. and Mrs Young of Ohio.

Reports Of committes, are--

Historian, Gladys Fitch reported a daughter Elizabeth Ann Fitch to Margrie and Laurin Shirk, Rose Lee to Viola and Forest Fitch, a son John to Eunice and Merlin Fitch. Marriages are Sarah Elizabeth Kell to Earl Debolt, and Kenneth Harvey to Doris. Deaths, William S. Fitch And the baby son of Mr. and Mrs. Jake Kell.

Memorial, by Aunt Ida, Our service was opened by a song "Shadows" sang by Marscell & Ann Mc Combs and accompanied on the piano by Phillis McCombs in memory of William Fitch & baby Victor K. Kell, and closed by a beautiful prayer by Aunt Ida.

Fitch Fund report, by Aunt Emma, She reported a total of \$254.62 and of that amount \$219.62 is in a frozen account at the New Haven bank

Treasurers report read and accepted.

Aunt Ida made a motion the historian get the number of grand and great grand children and give the report at the next meeting.

Mr. and Mrs Emrich were given a rising vote of thanks for their kind hospitality.

All officers were reelected.

David Fitch	President
Rolland Fitch	Vice President
Erma Fitch More	Secretary
Harry Wert	Treasurer

It was moved and seconded to have the 1935 reunion at the church at Hunteertown.

Mr. and Mrs. Emrich were given a rising vote of thanks for their kind hospitality.

All officers were re-elected.

David Fitch	President
Rolland Fitch	Vice President
Erma More	Secretary
Harry Wert	Treasurer

Aunt Ida gave an interesting report of the History of the family. There are 141 living descendants, 9 sons and daughters, Amos, the twins, Fitelia and Francilia, Harvey, Sarah, Allen, Ida, Emma, and David. Their combined ages are 698.

42 Grandchildren
79 Great grandchildren
11 Great great grandchildren

The earliest record of the family reunion was taken from a picture, taken in 1884 and that shows 39 present.

While singing the closing song, we all joined hands and sang "Blessed Be The Tie That Binds."

1935

July 4, 1935.

The 34th. Annual reunion of the Nathaniel and Sarah E. Fitch family was held in the church grove at Hunteertown.

The weather was rather changable, showers, then sunshine, But the horse shoe players had several games, between showers .

After a very delicious dinner, the meeting was called to order by our president, Dave Fitch.

Minutes of the 1934 reunion were read and approved.

Next was roll call, 89 answered present.

Greetings were read from, Jim Fair and family from Yellow Stone Park, Victor Fitch and Family of Florence Mass. The Harveys of Minneapolis, Mr. and Mrs. Earl DeBolt of Saint Petersburg Florida, and Oakley Fitch of Saint Paul.

Among those present from a distance were , Francelia Fair, Ruie Fair and daughter Nina, Sarah Stratton, Mark Stratton, And Robert Nobles.

Reports of Committes, are ---

Historian Gladys Fitch reported a son born to Mr. and Mrs. // Fred Fitch. Marriages, Ruth Bolby to Carl Schaefer. Deaths Fitelia Gloyd.

Memorial, Aunt Ida Mason Asked Kenneth Beers to write resolutions for Fitelia Gloyd, Kenneth sent a very beautiful memorial in honor of the memory of Aunt Fie. This was read by the secretary, Erma More.

Fitch Fund Report, by Aunt Emma Hartsell she reports 76.42 in cash.

Treasurer's Report. Harry Wert, treasurer reports Balance July, 1934, \$14.08 Collection July 4. 1935, \$20.00.

Bills for the day read and allowed. Care of the cemetery lot \$2.00 Invitions \$2.00. Rent for church grounds \$5.00. Ice cream \$11.75. Leaving a balance July 4, 1935, of 13.33.

Old Business.

The Historian, Gladys Fitch Gave the following report as request ed by Aunt Ida.

There are 15 of the original family, 42 Grand children, 82 great grand children, 24 great great grand children.

Under new business, All the officers were re-elected by a motion made by Otis Gloyd and seconded by Aunt Ida.

David Fitch
Rolland Fitch
Harry Wert
Erma More

President.
Vice President.
Treasurer .
Secretary.

It was moved and seconded to have the 1936 reunion at Hometown.

It was all so moved and seconded to give Mr. and Mrs. Henry Emrich a vote of thanks for arranging the church and church grounds for the reunion.

At the close of the meeting, Plenty of ice cream was enjoyed by all.

President

Secretary-----

In Memory of Uncle Ame

I have been asked by Aunt Ida to say a few words this afternoon to pay tribute to the memory of one whom we all love and remember as kind, gentle, and loving. I speak of Uncle Ame.

Someone has said "the faults of our dear ones we write upon the sand, their virtues on the tablets of love's memory". How fine that is. All of us can recall incidents that show the goodness of heart that Uncle Ame had. I shall always think of him as sympathetic. Even as a child I recognized in Uncle Ame a tender heartedness. That to me is a beautiful trait in any character. One time while a visitor at Uncle Ame's, we girls had done something wrong. We failed to carry out our mother's plans. We had caused our dear mothers sufficient worry that when we arrived home at Uncle Ames he was to administer a good thrashing to the three of us. When we arrived home, we were brought before him. He picked up a Jew's harp and started to play. Needless to say, the punishment was never meted out. We never forgot that.

Uncle Ame worked hard for his family. He made a nice home for them. The scriptures say "goodness and mercy endureth forever". So with Uncle Ame. His high principles and goodness will not have been in vain. The influence will live on

Let us not mourn his going

Let us rejoice to know

That - earthly labors finished -

He was prepared to go.

Let us emulate his virtues

That all of us may say,

The world's brighter, better

Because he passed this way.

By Helen Fitch Hawver

1936

July, 4 1936.

The 35th. annual reunion of the Nathaniel and Sarah E. Fitch family was held July 4th. at Huntertown.

The weather was ideal, and after a delicious dinner, the meeting was called to order by our president, David Fitch.

The minutes of the 1935 reunion were read and approved, and 69 answered to the roll call.

Greetings were read from Kenneth and May Beers of Orlando Fla. Jim Fair and family, Ed. Fair and family of Kansas, a fine letter from Aunt Francelia Fair with a \$5.00 bill enclosed, Victor Fitch and family of Florence Mass., Le Roy Beers and family of Rochester N.Y., Sarah E. Stratton of Parkersburg W Virginia, Allen and Emma Fitch of So St. Paul Minn. Vallie Bressler of Wamego Kans. and May Harvey of Minneapolis Minn.

Among those present from a distance were- Dr. Irving and Marjorie Ozanne of Neenah Wis., Bertha Hunt of Detroit Mich. and the Youngs of Ohio.

Marjorie Ozanne brought a message from Aunt Ida Mason. It was the first reunion Aunt Ida had ever missed but due to the illness of Uncle Mel. she was unable to attend.

Reports of committes:

Memorial by Helen Hawver-

Helen read a very beautiful memorial in memory of Uncle Amos Fitch.

Historian - Gladys Fitch.

Births - Jacob Fredrick Kell, born to Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Kell.

Marriages - Lucile Ozanne to Charles W. Cassell, Mary Ellen Kell to Dewey S. Arnold, Hillis Fitch to Edward Ucker, Iolene Gloyd to Russel Pushey, Icel Fitch to Elmer Burzloff and Cecil Fitch to Sarah J. Kistler.

Deaths - Amos Fitch.

Report of Fitch fund - Aunt Emma Hartzell reports a total of \$127.34

Treasures report - Harry Wert reports balance July 4 1935 of \$13.13. The bills of the day were read and allowed. The collection for the day was \$16.78.

All officers were reelected.

David N. Fitch Pres.

Rolland Fitch Vice Pres.

Harry Wert Treas.

Erma More Sec'y

Nina and Henry Emrich were given a vote of thanks for their kind hospitality. We also voted to have the next reunion at Huntertown in July 1937.

Pres.

Sec'y

1937

July 4, 1937

The 36th Annual Reunion of the Nathaniel & Sarah E. Fitch family was held July 5, 1937 at Huntertown.

The weather was perfect, and after a delicious dinner the meeting was called to order by the President, David Fitch.

The minutes of the 1936 reunion were read and accepted, 65 answered present to the roll call.

Greetings were read from Elizabeth Gartner of Long Beach, Calif., Dr. Irving Ozanne of Neenah, Wis., J.B. Fitch of St. Paul., Mr. & Mrs. Earl DeBolt of Dunedin, Fla., Victor Fitch of Florence, Mass., and Francelia Fair of Alden, Kan.

Report of committees.

Gladys Fitch, Historian reported marriage of Rawles Moudy to Eunice Flagg and Ann McCombs to Russel Kelham. Births - a daughter Margaret Elizabeth to Mr. & Mrs. Earl DeBolt of Dunedin, Fla.

Aunt Emma Hartzell - reported ^{160.78}\$159.04 in the Fitch Fund.

Harry Wert, Treasurer, reported \$11.51 balance from July 4, 1936. Collection from July 4, 1937 - \$16.43. Bills of the day were read and allowed. It was moved and seconded to transfer ^{25.62}\$18.00 to the Fitch Fund.

The election of officers resulted in all officers being re-elected - David Fitch, Pres., Rolland Fitch, Vice Pres., Harry Wert, Treasurer and Erma More, Sec.

A vote of thanks was given Nina & Henry Emrich for arranging the church and church grove for the reunion, and we accepted their invitation to return for the 1938 reunion.

At the close of the meeting horse shoe games, visiting and Ice Cream were enjoyed.

1938

July, 4th. 1938.

The 37th. annual reunion of the Nathaniel and Sarah E. Fitch family was held July, 4th. 1938. at Hunteertown.

The weather was perfect, and after a delicious dinner the meeting was called to order by the president, David N. Fitch.

The minutes of the 1937 reunion were read and accepted, 78 answered to roll call.

Greeting were read from the Strattons and Nobles of Parkersburg W. Va. with a gift of Five dollars for the Fitch Fund. also from Allen Fitch of So. St. Paul with a gift of One dollar for the Sunshine Fund, and from Peter and May Harvey of Minneapolis, Minn.

Report of Committees.

Gladys Fitch Historian, reported marriages of Marjorie McCombs to Laurin Freck, Glen Fitch to ~~Elaine~~ Mossman. Births- a daughter Sarah Rebecca to Mrs. and Mrs. Clarence Davis, a son Mark Lynn to Mr. and Mrs. Dewey Arnold and a son Norman Eugene to Mr. and Mrs Rawles Moudy. Deaths- Uncle Mel Mason and Aunt Francelia Fair.

Aunt Ida Mason has charge of the Memorial Committee but at her request Helen Hawver gave a lovely tribute to Uncle Mel and Aunt Frank.

It was moved and seconded by Gladys Fitch and Uncle Harvey to send the Memorial given by Helen Hawver to the Fair family.

1938 Aunt Emma Hartzell treasurer for the Fitch fund reported July Fourth a balance of \$206.91. Arthur Houser is secretary of this Com.

The treasurers report by Harry Wert, balance July 4, 1937 \$.65. collection for the day July 4. 1938, was \$14.00. Bills for the day were read and allowed.

A motion was made by Stella Gloyd to have the secretary send a card of sympathy at the time of sorrow to any member of the Fitch Family.

By the wish of the President all officers are to be retained for another year. President-David Fitch. Vice-President- Rolland Fitch. Treasurer -Harry Wert. Secretary Erma More.

It was moved and seconded to have the reunion at Hunteertown for 1939.

1939

July 4, 1939

The 38th. annual reunion of the Nathaniel and Sarah E. Fitch family was held at Huntertown July 4, 1939.

The weather was changeable; a few showers mixed with the sunshine.

The meeting was called to order by the Pres. David Fitch, and the minutes of the 1938 reunion were read and accepted. 77 answered to roll call.

Greetings were read from Peter and May Harvey of Minneapolis, Minn., J. B. Fitch of St. Paul, Minn. and LeRoy Beers of Rochester, N. Y. The Stratton and Noble families of Parkersburg and Allen and Emma Fitch of So. St. Paul sent gifts of Five dollars each that were appreciated.

Reports of Committees

Gladys Fitch, Historian, reported the marriage of Dr. David Fitch to Ella Franz Osburn.

Births, Glenda Lee to Mr & Mrs. Cicel Fitch. Marilyn Jane to Mr. and Mrs. Dale Kistler.

Aunt Emma Hart-cl. reported a balance of \$220.80 in the Fitch Fund.

Treasurers report was read by Harvy Wert. No. balance from July 4, 1938. Collection for the day was \$12.40, gifts \$10.00 making a total of \$22.40. Bills of \$18.00 for July 4, 1939 were and read and allowed. ~~for~~ leaving a balance of \$ 4.40.

Election of Officers

Bert Fitch Pres., Otis Gloyd, Vice Pres. John Fitch Treas, Erna Fitch More Secy.

The meeting place for 1940 was left to the decision of the following committee; Otis Gloyd, John Fitch and Verne McCombs.

A rising vote of thanks was given Mina and Henry Emrick for preparing the picnic grounds.

Sec.

1940

July 4th. 1940.

The 39th. annual reunion of the Nathaniel and Sarah E. Fitch family was held at Hunteertown July 4th 1940.

The meeting was called to order by the pres. Bert Fitch, and the minutes of the 1939 reunion were read and accepted. 96 answered to the roll call.

Greetings were read from Le Roy Beers and family of Rochester N.Y. Elizabeth DeBolt and family of Dunedin Florida. May Harvey of Minneapolis Minn. Marjorie Ozanne Neenah Wis. May and Kenneth Beers of Orlando Florida Allen And Emma Fitch of SoSt. Paul Minn. The Stratton And Nobles family of Parkersburg W. Va.

Report of committees.

Aunt Emma Hartsell reported a balance of \$226.48 and a gift of \$5.00 from the Strattons and Nobles .

Gladys Fitch, Historian, reported no deaths. Marriages, Elizabeth Ann Fitch to John Person Elizabeth Bowlby to Marcella McCombs to Walter Sloffer. Phillis M. McComb to Francis Brown, Robert Ozanne to Frances Webb. and Hazel Moudy to Marion Harwick. Births. A son John Evan to Bess and Fred Fitch a daughter Ruth Ann to Eunice and Rawles Moudy. a daughter Lou Ann to Bernice and Kenneth Harvey . a daughter Nancy Jean to Marjorie and Loren Freck a daughter Sandra Lou to Barbara and Russel Kelham.

Treasurers report. by John Fitch reported a balance of \$4.40 but had \$5.00 on hand. collection taken July 4th. 1940 \$12.97 and a gift of \$2.00 from Allen and Emma Fitch, Bills, Ice cream \$8.35, Rent for picnic grounds to Henry and Nina Emrich \$5.00, Care of cemetery lot \$1.00 Invitations \$2.00.

Ray Hawver made a motion that due to the unsettled conditions of the country ~~the~~ our election be postponed till next year, the selected officers are Pres. Bert Fitch, Vice Pres. Otis

Gloyd, Treasure John Fitch, Secretary Erma More,

A motion was made to send Frank Fitch a "Get Well" card and a gift of money from the Fitch family reunion.

A vote of thanks was given to the Enrichs for preparing the picnic grounds, and we are invited back for 1941 if the buildinds are still standing.

WE had lovely weather and a grand crowd. The meeting was closed by all pledgeing alligance to our flag, and the closing prayer was given by Aunt Ida Mason.

President .

Secretary.

1941

July 4th. 1941.

The 40th. annual reunion ~~of the annual reunion~~ of the Nathaniel and Sarah E. Fitch family was held at Hunteertown, July 4th, 1941.

The meeting was called to order by the president Bert Fitch, and the minutes of the 1940 reunion were read and accepted, 109 were present.

Greeting were read from the Statton and Noble familey, Rolland and Margaret Fitch, Allen and Emma Fitch, and May Harvey.

Report of committes.

Emma Hartsell reported a balance of \$264.91 in the Fitch fund.

Gladys Fitch, our historian, reported a son born to Dr. and Mrs Brice Ozanne. a daughter to Lucille and Charles Cassel. A daughtert to Marcell and Walter Sloffer.

Marriages were Jane Fitch to Raymond Getty Jr. Robert Gloyd to Evelyn Pontius. and Dorothy Kistler to Ted Owen.

Deaths were Martha Ellen Arnold.

Treasurer reported a balance from 1940 of \$2.75. Bills read and allowed were Ice cream \$8.85. cards \$1.00 Printing \$1.00 Care of cemetary lot \$1.00. Rent for picnic grounds, \$5.00. Collection for July 4, 1941 \$44.32. And a gift of \$1.00 from May Harvey and a gift of \$2.00 from Allen Fitch for the Fitch Fund.

Our folks attending from a distance were Jim, Nina, and Sarah Fair from Alden Kansas, and Sarah Elizabeth DeBolt of Dunedin Flordia, they all gave pleasing remarks.

All the present officers were re- elected, Pres. Bert Fitch. Vice Pres. Otis Gloyd, Treasure John Fitch Secretary Erma More.

The following committe were appointed to select a meeting place for 1942, Robert Gloyd, Caroline Davis, John Fitch, and Bert Fitch.

President.

Secretary.

1942

July 4th. 1942

The 41st. annual reunion of the Nathaniel and Sarah E. Fitch family was held at the Community Church in Cedarville, Ind., July 4, 1942.

The meeting was called to order by the President Bert Fitch. The minutes of the 1941 reunion were read and accepted. 56 answered to the roll call.

Greetings were read from Alice B. Kephart, Denver, Colo., Valletta Fair Bressler, Wamego, Kansas, The Harveys of Minneapolis, Minn., Le Roy Beers of Rochester, N. Y., Marjorie Ozanne, Neenoh, Wis., and an acknowledgement of sympathy card from the C. E. Maudy family.

A motion was moved to allowed the Secretary \$2.00 to send sympathy, and Get-Well cards to our members who are ill or in sorrow. And the members are to report to the secretary so she can send cards.

David Fitch, Frank Fitch and Bess Kell are reported ill.

A short memorial service was read by Erma More for Henry Enrich, George Fitch, Norma Maudy, and Giles Fitch who have passed away since our last reunion.

Gladys Fitch our historian reported baby sons to Robert and Frances Ozonne, Robert and Evelyn Gloyd, Phillis and Francis Brown, and baby daughters to Barbara and Russel Kelham, Richard and Phyllis Fitch and Kenneth and Bernice Harvey. Marriages were, Richard Houser to Joan Hiler, Richard Fitch to Phyllis Pulver. Danford McCombs to Betty Frazier and Betty Fitch to—

Fitch Fund Report by Aunt Emma Hartzel--Balance July 4, 1942, \$169.56.

Treasure reported Balance from July 4, 1941, \$30.37.; Collection for July 4, 1942--\$9.61. Bills were read and allowed \$3.00 Picnic grounds, \$1.00 for care of cemetery, ice cream, \$10.35, Invitations, \$2.13.

Aunt Ida Mason made a motion all officers be re-elected. President Bert Fitch, Vice President, Otis Gloyd, Treasurer, John Fitch, Secretary, Erma More.

It was decided to return to Cedarville Park for the 1943 reunion.

Our meeting was closed by singing "God be with you till we meet again."

1943

42 annual Reunion

July 4, 1943

The minutes of the 1942 reunion were read and approved.

Greetings were read from Elizabeth De Bast of Dundee Florida, Margie Ozanne & family of Neenah Wis, LeRoy Beers family of Rochester N.Y. and the Harner family of Minneapolis, Minn.

Report of committees:

Aunt Emma Hartzell reported Fitch fund same as last year \$169.66

Gladys Fitch, Historian reported

Births, Sons born to Mr & Mrs Chas Cassell, Mr & Mrs Robert Ozanne, Mr & Mrs Dewey Arnold, Mr & Mrs Richard Hauser. Daughters born to Mr & Mrs Robert Lloyd, Mr & Mrs Chris Fair, Mr & Mrs Douglas Beers. Deaths.

Jane Beers wife of Douglas Beers, Law Ann Club Fitch, Bessie Kell, Baby Sharon Ann Owen, Frank Fitch, Marguerite Fitch, Etta Fitch. Marriages. Steven Fitch to Katherine Gallatin. Hubert Hartnett, Chas & Naudy. Boys & Girls in Service. Richard Hauser. Sanford M. Combs, Russel M. Combs

Steven Fitch, James Fitch, Douglas Beers,
Robert Beers, James Moody, Lucinda Fitch,
Raymond Getty, Claude Ballyshusband - and
the husband of Betty Fitch.

No Treasures report due to the illness of
John Fitch. Bills Invitations \$2.00 Ice Cream
\$10.00 Rent for Park \$3.00. motion made & seconded
to pay all bills. Collection \$11.00

motion made & seconded to keep same
officers.

Illness reported John Fitch, Otis Lloyd,
Dane Fitch, Ed Fair.

It was decided to reserve Cedarville
Park for the 1944 reunion.

1946

July 4. 1947

The minutes of the 1943 reunion were read and approved.

Roll call. Greetings were read from Valletta Bressler, Alice & J. B. Fitch, and Mrs. Peter Harvey.

Balance on hand in the Fitch Fund \$120.00 reported by Aunt Emma Hartzell.

Gladys Fitch the Historian will have her report brought up to date for the 1947 reunion.

Marguerite Nobles paid tribute to the following who have passed away since we last met, Ida Mason, Kenneth Belser, Otis Glayds, Artie Fitch, Frank Fitch and Margaret Fitch. Moved and seconded that the tribute read be made a part of the records.

Treasurer reported, Balance from July 4, 1943

17.60. Collection 19.19. Bills were read, Post Cards and Printing \$2.00, Ice Cream 10.50, rent for Park \$3.00.

Forrest Fitch made a motion Bert Fitch be re-elected President. Arthur Hauser was elected Vice President, Harry Wiert Treasurer, Emma Moore, Secretary, Gladys Fitch Historian, Solene Pusey, Memorials, Forrest Fitch Fitch Fund.

It was decided to reserve Cedarnell's park for the 1947 reunion.

It was moved and seconded that a committee of three, Forrest Fitch chairman, the President and Treasurer of the association be placed in charge of raising funds and the distributing of the Fitch Fund.

new members present were ^{the} new sons of Robert Gloyds, Ruth Bowley's keeper, Phyllis Mc Combs Brown, Baby Daughter of Islene Pusey. and wife of James Maudy.

Pro Tem sec.

1947

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17

1948

July 4, 1948

The 45th annual reunion of the Nathaniel and Sarah E. Fitch family was held at Cedarville park in Cedarville, Ind. July 4, 1948. The weather was ideal, and the usual big array of good food.

The meeting was called to order by the Pres. Bert Fitch. and the 1947 minutes were read and accepted.

We were happy to have two of the original family answer to the roll call. Uncle Harvey ^{who} is 95 years old and Aunt Emma 87. There were 56 members present and 2 guests.

Greetings were read from J. B. Fitch of St Paul. May Hardy of Minneapolis, Aunt Sarah Stutton, Margaret Nobles, Harold & Mark Stutton, Parkersburg W. Va. Sarah Kell De Balt of Dunedin Fla. Mrs Margie Beers Oganne & Mrs Mrs Chas Cassel of Neenah Wis.

Gladys Fitch our historian, reported the new babies as - a son Jackson to Dr & Mrs Bryce Oganne, a son Roy Douglas to Mr & Mrs Robert Oganne. a son Steven David II to Mr & Mrs Stephen Fitch

a son, Dennis Robert to Mrs Robert Lloyd
a son, Bryce William to Mrs Robert Shaffer
a baby to Mrs Mrs O. A. Silha, a daughter to
Mrs Mrs Eugene Glick.

marriages. Claude P. Fitch to Dottie Simberlin
Mary Lou Fitch to Eugene Glick, Carolyn Fitch to
Oscar Genevieve Fitch, May Beers, Chas Moody.

We all stood in a moment of silent prayer in
memory of those who have passed on since our
last meeting.

The Treasure reported a balance of 21.29. collection
for the day \$1.00. Bills read and allowed -
they were Ice Cream 15.25, rent for picnic ground
\$3.00, and Invitations for 1947 & 1948. \$4.00

The officers elected for the new year, are
Pres. Clarence Davis, Vice Pres. Arthur Souser, Treas.
Margaret West and Secy. Emma More.

A rising vote of thanks was given the
retiring officers and also the old ones re-elected.

It was decided to return to the Cedarville
park for the 1949 reunion.

The meeting was closed by all singing,
"God be with you till we meet again".

1949

July 4 - 1949

The 46th annual reunion of the Nathaniel and Sarah E Fitch family was held at Cedarville park. July 4 1949.

It was a very hot day. but the thirty eight members who braved the heat had a nice time, and plenty to eat, especially ice cream.

The meeting was called to order by the pres. Clarence P. Davis, and the 1948 minutes were read and accepted.

Greetings were read from. Leander Stratton of Frozer Montana, Alice & Burgess Fitch of Minneapolis, Valletta Bressler of Wamego Kansas, The DeBaltos of Dunedin, Florida. & Mr & Mrs LeRay Beers of Rochester N. Y.

Gladys Fitch, our historian reported Deaths. Uncle Harvey Fitch and Ed. Fair. marriages Joan Houser to Ralph Done Allen Fitch to Mollie Manis

new
Babys.

Jerril Lynn to Mr & Mrs Francis Brown

Alice Jane to Mr & Mrs Russel Kellum -

Russel Kenneth Jr to Mr & Mrs Russel McCombs

Jeddy Lee to Mr & Mrs Danford McCombs.

William to Mr & Mrs Jack Lucas

The treasure reported a balance of \$5.04.

Bills read and ordered paid were

Ice Cream 12.48. Invitations 2.00, Park rent \$3.00

The days Collections was \$10.15

All officers were re-elected, Pres. Clarence P Davis, Vice Pres. Arthur Hauser. Treasure Margaret West, Sec'y Emma Moore.

We were all very happy to accept the kind invitation of Stella and Arniella Gloyd, to meet at their home for the 1950 reunion.

Pres.
Sec'y

1950

July 4, 1950.

The 47th. annual reunion of the Nathaniel and Sarah E. Fitch Family was held at the Arvilla and Stella Gloyd home . It was a lovely day and 46 ^Wanted to roll call. and 6 visitors, the mother of George Hursh, and some Ohio cousins , Mary Benham, Ada & George Meyers, and Mr. & Mrs Henry Ochs (oaks)

The meeting was called to order by our president , Clarence P. Davis, and the minutes of the 1949 reunion were read and accepted.

Treasures report read and accepted , Balance on hand \$7.71 Bills for the day ~~were~~ were, Invitations and stamps \$5.00, Ice cream \$10.90. Collection, \$21.65.

Greetings were read from Aunt Sarah Stratton, Parkersburg W. Va. May Harvey, Minneapolis Minn. Margie Ozanne Neenah Wis. Helen Hawver Ft. Wayne, Claudia Bolby Mac Innes Springfield Penn. Nina Fair, Alden Kansas Victor Fitch Northampton, Mass. William Fitch Ypsilanti Mich. Leroy Beers Rochester N. Y. Burgess Fitch St Paul Minn. Fawles Moudy, Prescott Arizona. and Elizabeth Debolt, Dunedin, Florida.

Gladys Fitch our Historian reported, Deaths, Bertha Beers Hunt, Aunt Emma Hartzell , Uncle David Fitch. Marriages, Kenneth Fitch to Wilma Smith . Warren Fitch to Betty Brown. Mary Belle Hawver to David Brogan. Babys, Linda Sue to Mr. & Mrs, Ted Owen. Ned William to Mr. & Mrs. Don Ewing Mark Allen to Mr. & Mrs. Pussel Pussey, Philipp, to Mr. Mrs. Walter Sloffer, Kenneth , to Mr. & Mrs. James Moudy. and Gary Lee, To Mr. Mrs. Richard Ober .

All officers were re-elected. Pres. Clarence P. Davis Vice. Pres. Arthur Houser, Treas. Margaret Wert, Sec. Erma More.

The 1951 reunion will be held at the Cedarville Park.

A minute of silent prayer was held in memory of those Who have passed away.

A rising vote of thanks was given Arvilla and Stella for having in their home.

Pres.
Sec.

1951

July, 4 1951

The 48th. annual reunion of the Nathaniel and Sarah E. Fitch family was held at Cedarville Park, Cedarville, Ind.

The meeting was called to order by the pres. Clarence P. Davis, 26 answered to roll call, and the minutes of the 1950 reunion were read and accepted.

Treasures report read and accepted, Balance on hand \$13.46 Collection for the day \$11.95. Bills read and ordered paid, were invitations, \$2.00 ice cream, \$7.80, rent for the park, \$3.00.

Greetings read from May Harvey, Minneapolis, Minn. Hawles and Eunice Moudy, Prescott Arizona. Leroy and Clara Beers Rochester N.Y. Sarah Stratton Parkersburg, W. Va. J. B. Fitch St. Paul, Minn. Alice Kephart and Margie Ozanne of Denver Colorado.

Gladys Fitch our Historian, reported deaths the past year were Lucinda Fitch, Mark Pusey, and Oscar Fitch. Births. baby to Mr. & Mrs Robert Gloyd, son to Mr. & Mrs John Hunt daughter to Mr. & Mrs. Frances Brown, daughter to Mr. & Mrs Russel Lucas Marriages. Jane Hawver to William Le Vay.

All officers were re_elected for another year Pres. Clarence Davis. Vice Pres. Arthur Houser Treas. Margaret Wert. Sec. Erma More.

We voted to come to Cedarville Park in 1952.

We closed our meeting with silent prayer in memory of our absent ones.

Pres. _____

Sec. _____

1952

July 4, 1952

The 49th annual reunion of the Nathaniel and Sarah E. Fitch family was held at Cedarville Park, Cedarville, Indiana.

The meeting was called to order by the President, Clarence P. Davis, 23 answered to roll call, and the minutes of the 1951 reunion were read and accepted.

Greetings were read from Alice Kephart and Margie Ozanne of Denver Colorado and Neenah, Wisconsin, respectively.

Gladys Fitch, our Historian, reported deaths the past year were Lois Byerley Fitch and Schuyler Fitch; the marriage of David Davis to Sharon Willig; births, Catherine Sue Fitch

All officers were re-elected for another year -- President, Clarence Davis; Vice President, Arthur Houser; Treasurer, Marguerette Wert, Secretary, Erma More.

We voted to pay \$3.00 for use of the park and \$6.18 for the bill for ice cream. We also voted to come to Cedarville Park in 1953.

1953

July 4, 1953

The 50th annual reunion of the Nathaniel and Sarah E. Fitch family was held at Cedarville Park, Cedarville, Indiana.

The meeting was called to order by the President, Clarence P. Davis, and 29 answered to roll call.

Greetings were read from May Harvey, Minneapolis, Minnesota; Margie Ozanne, Neenah, Wisconsin; and Burgess Fitch, St. Paul, Minnesota.

There was a discussion on the upkeep of the Grandfather Fitch lot in Huntertown cemetery. Motion made by Bert Fitch that Historian and Treasurer keep check on developments was seconded by Ivan Fitch and carried.

Gladys Fitch, our Historian, reported deaths the past year were Arvilla Gloyd, Allen Fitch, Belle Fitch and William Wyatt; no marriages; births, Sharon Diane Gloyd to Mr. & Mrs. Robert Gloyd, Kathy Elaine Dove to Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Dove, Mark Alan Houser to Mr. & Mrs. Richard Houser, Judith Mabel Fitch to Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Fitch, Steven Kenneth Ozanne to Mr. & Mrs. ~~Robert~~ Ozanne, Laurena Ruth Moudy to Mr. & Mrs. James Moudy, Sue Ann Fitch to Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Fitch and Walter Keith Davis to Mr. & Mrs. David Davis who died shortly after birth.

The Treasurer, Marguerette Wert, reported a balance on hand of \$11.18, collection for the day was \$9.56, expenses \$9.05, which left a balance to date of \$11.69.

A motion made by Bert Fitch that we do not discontinue the Fitch reunion was seconded by Lottie Kistler and carried.

Election of officers resulted in Bert Fitch being elected President; Marie Houser, Secretary; and Nancy Fitch, Treasurer.

After some discussion it was decided to hold the next reunion at Cedarville Park on Sunday, July 11, 1954 unless an invitation was extended to hold it at someone's home.

1954

Sunday, July 11, 1954

The 51st annual reunion of the Nathaniel and Sarah E. Fitch family was held at the home of Gladys Fitch, Joan and Ralph Dove on the Allen-DeKalb County Line road.

It was a nice cool day after a week of very hot weather. After a fine dinner from two tables loaded with food, Bert Fitch⁶⁸ called the meeting to order with 68 answering to roll call. The minutes of the 1953 reunion were read and accepted.

Greetings were read from May Harvey, Minneapolis, Minnesota. We were happy to have with us the only living member of the Nathaniel and Sarah E. Fitch family, Aunt Sade Stratton, her son Harold and daughter Marguerite Nobles from Parkersburg, West Virginia, another daughter Helen Bowlby and husband Claude from Cincinnati, Ohio, and another cousin Margie Ozanne from Neenah, Wisconsin.

Gladys Fitch, our Historian, reported deaths the past year were Fred Gladbach and Emma Fitch; marriages, Suzanne Fitch to Todd Enyeart, Elaine Houser to Vincent Kirbach, Robert Fitch to Valarie Balsanio; births, Janice Marie McComb to Mr. & Mrs. Russell McComb, David Allen Sloffer to Mr. & Mrs. Walter Sloffer, Susan Jane Ober to Mr. & Mrs. Richard Ober, Keith Marion Fulk to Mr. & Mrs. Robert Fulk and Barbara Caple to Mr. & Mrs. John Caple.

The Treasurer, Nancy Fitch, reported a balance on hand of \$11.69, collection for the day was \$27.64, expenses \$11.08, which left a balance to date of \$28.25.

A motion made by Rolland Fitch to give \$2.00 to cemetery for upkeep of graves was seconded and carried.

A motion was made by Helen Bowlby, seconded by Marguerette Wert, and carried, to have the present officers retained.

The place and date of the reunion for next year was discussed. They decided on the first Sunday after the Fourth of July for the date. A motion was made by Ivan Fitch, seconded and carried to appoint a committee to find a place to hold the reunion. Maurice Fitch and Jake Kell were appointed.

A rising vote of thanks was given to Gladys Fitch, Joan and Ralph Dove for holding the reunion at their home.

President

Secretary

1955

Sunday, July 17th, 1955

The 52nd annual reunion of the Nathaniel and Sarah E. Fitch family was held at the home of Cecil and Josephine Fitch near Waterloo, Indiana.

Despite the high temperature, there was a nice cool breeze on the shaded lawn. Tables were scattered about, loaded with lots of good food.

Bert Fitch, president, called the meeting to order. Minutes of the 1954 reunion were read and accepted, 62 answered to roll call.

Greetings were read from Marguerite Nobles of Parkersburg, West Virginia, and May Harvey of Minneapolis. Remarks from cousin Margie Ozanne from Neenah, Wis.

A letter was read by Gladys Fitch in regard to the upkeep of the lot at Huntertown cemetery asking for an endowment of \$100.00. Motion was made by Ivan Fitch and seconded by Erma More that we continue to pay the regular \$2.00 assessment for another year and that a committee be appointed to keep in touch with the cemetery association for further developments.

The president appointed Gladys Fitch, Audrey Hursh and Jake Kell to serve on this committee.

Gladys Fitch, historian, reported births during the past year: Kent Arthur Houser to Richard and Joan Houser, Kim Alan Dove to Ralph and Joan Dove, Susan Jane Ober to Richard and Maxine Ober, Karolyn Louise Fitch to Warren and Betty Fitch, Quentin James Moudy to Moudy, Alan Blaine Lyons to Russell and Ann Lyons, Carl Victor Davis to David and Sharon Davis, Mark Enyeart to Todd and Suzanne Enyeart, Richard Gallatin Fitch to Stephen and Catherine Fitch. Marriages were Helen Hawver to Robert Florsheim; deaths, Robert Fitch, Arthur Houser, Martha Kistler, Douglas Beers and William Jensen. All stood for silent prayer for those who have passed on.

The treasurer, Nancy Fitch, reported a balance on hand of \$26.35. Collection for the day was \$24.85, expenses \$14.80, which left a balance to date of \$36.40.

A motion by Rolland Fitch was seconded by David Davis to retain the present officers for another year.

An increase in the number of the younger members of the family in attendance was gratifying.

After discussion it was decided to hold the next meeting on the first Sunday after the 4th of July at the Huntertown Pavilion.

A rising vote of thanks was given to Cecil, Josephine and family for the lovely day.

Meeting adjourned.

President

Secretary

Election of officers was held with Caroline Davis elected our new president. Helen Hawes elected secretary and treasurer.

Gladys Fitch historian reported births —
Angela Ruth Brown to Phyllis and Francis Brown.
Joyce Sherwood Weber (adopted) by Ellen and Donald Weber.
Marrigues — Marilyn Kietler to Max Gay.
Deaths — Harry Wert and Earl Debolt.

The date and place of the reunion for next year was discussed. Nina Enrich and Cecil McCombs were appointed to decide on the place. The date the second Sunday after the 4th of July.

Meeting adjourned.

1957

Sunday, July 14, 1957.

The 54th annual reunion of the Nathaniel and Sarah E. Fitch family was held at the Park Pavilion at Huntstown, Ind. on Sunday, July 14, 1957.

It was a nice sunny day, a little warm and humid. The big table was loaded with good food as usual.

Bert Fitch, president, called the meeting to order. The minutes of the 1956 reunion were read and accepted. Sixty answered to roll call.

Greetings were read from Marguerite Nobles of Parkersburg, W. Virginia. Alice Beura Kephart of Denver, Colorado. May Harvey of Minneapolis, Minn.

A discussion was held in regard to the cemetery lot at Huntstown. A motion was made by Floretta Wyatt and seconded by Rolland Fitch to appoint Gladys Fitch to find just what we owed for this year and next year beginning in September.

Nancy Fitch, treasurer, reported a balance on hand of \$47.40. Bills for the day \$10.40, leaving a balance of \$37.00. Because of having such a large amount in the treasury after bills were paid we decided not to take up a collection this year.

Deaths - Peter Harvey husband of May Harvey.

Nancy Fitch, treasurer, reported a balance on hand of \$26.35. Collection for the day \$21.25. Expenses were \$16.15 which leaves a balance of \$32.45.

A motion was made by Danford Mc Combs, seconded by Gladys Fitch to pay \$3.00 to the park board for the use of the pavilion.

A motion was made by Hershel Fitch, seconded by Rolland Fitch to retain old officers for another year.

It was decided to hold the 1957 reunion at the Huntertown Park Pavilion on Sunday the 14th of July. Nina Enrich and Clarence Davis was appointed to secure the pavilion for next year. Meeting adjourned.

1958

July 2 / 1953

The ⁵⁵~~56~~ Annual Reunion of the Nathaniel and Sarah E Fitch Family was held at the New Pavilion in Shoaff Park north of Ft Wayne Ind.

The meeting was brought to order by the Pres. Mrs Clarence Davis. There were 38 people present. Greetings read. (From Marg Ozanne and granddaughter of Uncle Charles Fitch.) Minutes of last year's reunion were read by the Secretary.

Report was made by Gladys Fitch on the Cemetery lots. The Secretary read a letter of plans for the care of the lots in the Huntertown cemetery. Moved by Gladys Fitch seconded by Clarence Davis that we continue to pay 4.00 to cemetery Assoc. for the care of 5 Graves on the Fitch Lot. This to be paid until we know for sure how the project of paying \$125.00 will progress. Motion carried.

The Historian , Gladys Fitch then read of the births and Marriages in the Fitch family. We were happy to welcome the new members to our family. We were also grateful that there had been no deaths since the last reunion. A noteworthy fact was bro't out-- Sarah Stratton, the only living member of the original family is now 103 yrs old. She was not able to be present.

Marguerite Wert moved, RH Fitch seconded that officers be retained for another yr. From floor RTHawver nom. RHFitch for Pres. ~~Latter~~ voted Pre. by a show of hands. HH Fitch moved, Geo Hursh seconded that Helen Hawver be retained as Sec. Vote carried. Moved HHFitch sec.R Fitch that we get this same pavilion for next yr. Franke Park and Grange Picnic Grounds at Garrett be alternates. Marg. Wert moved, sec. Jake Kell that bills of this day be paid from our T reas. 34.00 plus today's collection of \$20.00.

— There was a movement for adjournment by Miss Davis.

Dixie cups of Ice Cream were then served to all (coffee taken by some) It was a beautiful day- and a happy time was had by the 38 present.

1959

The 57th Annual Reunion of the Nathaniel and Sarah E. Fitch Family was held on July 12, 1959 at River Lodge in Shoaff Park, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

There were 43 members and two visitors present. The following original families were represented: Fidelia Gloyd; and Perry, Matthias, Amos, Harve, and David Fitch.

It was a warm sunny day. As each family arrived, they were welcomed by those genial folks, the Hawvers. After a pleasant hour of visiting, we enjoyed a "tremendous feed."

At two o'clock Helen Hawver, Secretary-Treasurer, presiding, called the business meeting to order. She named Carolyn Davis as Secretary Pro Tem. Helen opened the meeting by saying how happy she was that everyone came. She asked the group if they preferred to read the correspondence individually or have it read. They voted to have it read. Carolyn Davis read greetings from Marjory Beers Ozanne, Alice Beers Gephart, and Bill Fitch; and an acknowledgment from Mrs. Claude Fitch; and a letter from Mr. and Mrs. Roy Beers.

The Secretary's Report of the 56th Fitch Reunion was read. Helen Hawver gave the Treasurer's Report which was as follows:

Balance in bank on July 1, 1958---\$27.00.

Collection received on July 12, 1959---\$15.75.

Reunion bills to be allowed---\$21.49.

Ivan Fitch moved and Gladys Fitch seconded that the bills amounting to \$25.49 be allowed. This included the \$4.00 for the cemetery assessment.

Helen Hawver asked for a discussion on whether or not a card with the Reunion invitation should be mailed to each family. The group decided to continue to mail invitations.

The matter of having the Reunion every two years was discussed, but it was the pleasure of the group to meet annually.

Helen Hawver asked where they wished to hold the Reunion in 1960. The majority favored River Lodge in Shoaff Park. Helen said that she would be responsible for securing the reservation for the pavilion.

Gladys Fitch, Historian, reported (1) one marriage, (3) three births, and (6) six deaths as having occurred in 1958-1959.

Helen Hawver asked Irma More to present the slate of officers for 1959-1960. She named the following: Jacob Kell, President; Ivan Fitch, Vice-President; Margarette Wort, Secretary; Helen Hawver, Treasurer.

Helen Hawver asked for nominations from the floor. Mrs. Ivan Fitch moved that the nominative ballot become the elective ballot and that the Secretary be authorized to cast the vote for their election. Carolyn Davis named the new officers and declared them duly elected.

Helen Hawver called on Fred Fitch for remarks.

Nancy Fitch gave a very inspiring talk. She challenged the group to interest the younger generation of Fitches in the heritage that was theirs.

Irma More suggested that a mimeographed copy of the history of the Fitch Family be sent to each family.

Stella Gloyd related the story of the money vest Nathaniel Fitch wore when he traveled from Indiana to Iowa on horseback.

Nancy Fitch suggested that each member contribute a story of the early life of the pioneer Fitches and be prepared to tell it at the 1960 Reunion. These stories would be mimeographed along with the history.

There was considerable enthusiasm shown by the members present for preserving this wonderful heritage for on-coming generations.

The meeting adjourned with this challenging note.

After ice-cream was served, we began leaving for our homes.

Helen and Raymond Hawver deserve a big "thank you" for arranging everything so that we all enjoyed such a pleasant day.

Carolyn Davis

1960

on an ideal July 24th 1960 - 63 members and one visitor of the Fitch clan gathered for the 5th annual re-union of the Nathaniel and Sarah E. Fitch families at River Lodge, Shoaff Park, Ft. Wayne, Indiana. The Haver's were the first to arrive and the spacious pavilion was soon buzzing with cousins and more cousins with the usual handshake and "Hello! there".

After a prayer of gratitude for our many blessings by Nancy Fitch, the hungry Fitches gathered around the serving table piled high with many good things. Our President Jake Nell presided at the afternoon business meeting. Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved followed by roll call. Greetings were received from Margie Oganne, Alice Kephart, J. B. Fitch, Wm Fitch, Marguerite Stratton Nobles, Kenneth Fitch, Lottie Kistler, May Harvey and Arthur Anderson.

We were pleased to have several new comers who had not been with us for some time. Sara DeBolt and daughter Margaret from Fla. the Sleepers from Kans. the Richard Housers and the V. J. Kirbachs from Ohio. The visit from the Sleepers, Alan, Sara, Barbara and Jim was unique in the fact that they no doubt are the first of our kin to pilot their own plane to our re-union.

The Historian, Gladys Fitch, reported three marriages and six deaths the past year. We stood for a moment of silent prayer for those who had gone on.

Treasurer's report as follows - Bal. in Bank 6.06 Collection received 34.45 use of pavilion \$12.00 and cemetery upkeep \$4.00 previously paid. Leaving expenses of \$4.50 for ice cream and \$3.00 for invitations. Bal. in Bank \$33.01.

Election of Officers followed - a motion by Otis seconded by Hurschel to retain old officers carried. Pres. Jake Nell & Secy. ^{Wm. Pres. J. van Fitch} Marguerite Wert - Treas. Helen Haver.

Shoaff Park was chosen for the place of the 1961 re-union after a motion by Nancy seconded by Hurschel. Our thanks to Helen Haver who again volunteered to sit in the long waiting line to secure the pavilion for our 1961 re-union.

The meeting adjourned after no further business.

Ice cream was served following the meeting.

We were invited to the front lawn where movie cameras were clicking here and there and where could you find a finer looking group (of Fitches that is) this side of Hollywood.

Our thanks to Jake Nell, Raymond Haver and Hurschel Fitch the clean up squad who did such a fine job.

1961

The day was ideal for our family gathering on July 9th 1961 at River Lodge, Schoaff Park, Ft. Wayne, Indiana. The Fred Fitcher of Detroit almost made it for breakfast and were the first to arrive. Next came the Hauvers our "official greeters". Each family came with well filled baskets and the food as usual was the best. After prayer by Carolyn Davis we gathered around the tables. Our President Jake Hill opened the afternoon meeting with a few remarks and ask each one in turn to stand give their name and from which original family they descended. The following original ^{families} were represented - Perry Fitch, Mathias, Fidelity Gloyd, Amos, Harvey and David Fitch. After roll call and minutes of the last meeting - greetings were read from Margie Eganne, Alice Kephart, J. B. Fitch, Helen Hauver Florsheim and Sara Fair Sleeper. The Treas. report given by Helen Hauver as follows. Bal. in bank 33.51 Expenses 26.95 collection for the day \$22.00 leaving a balance of \$28.56. Historians report was 1 death and 1 marriage. Upon motion by Marie Houser and second by Helen Hauver and carried - Carolyn Davis was made family Historian to replace Gladys Fitch who had served for several years. Motion by Stella Gloyd and second by Nina Emerick to retain old officers - carried. The meeting adjourned and ice cream was served. Thanks to Raymond Hauver, Russell Lyons and Vince Kirback for the splendid clean up job.

1962

60

The first gathering of the Fitch clan was held in 1902 on July 4th at the home of J. D. Gloyds, as a result of the pleasant & enjoyable day it was decided to hold Annual Reunions. Mathias Fitch was elected Pres. and Emma Hartzel Secy. with forty in attendance.

The year of 1962 was a memorable year as we gathered at River Lodge Shoaff Park for our 60th annual Reunion. The day was rather warm but we were there, 57 in number, with our usual Fitch appetites to do justice to the bountiful basket dinner, after prayer by Carolyn Davis.

The afternoon meeting was called to order by our Pres. After the Secy. report and roll call, greetings were read from Margie Cjanne, Alice Kephart, Helen Hawver Florsheim and Sara Sleeper. The Treas. report by Helen Hawver as follows. Bal. in bank \$28.56. Collection received 47.76 Bills allowed \$25.04. Leaving a Bal. of 51.28. We were grateful for the generous check sent by Cousin Jim Fair of Kansas. The Historian Carolyn Davis reported one birth and two deaths.

The work on the family tree by Bess and Hurschel Fitch was outstanding and greatly appreciated. It will be interesting as new names and branches are added and should be carried on from year to year. From the original family of fifteen, of Nathaniel and Sarah, we have grown beyond five hundred. Helen Hawver came forth with a couple surprise packages to inject a little fun into the meeting. The Kirlbachs of Cleveland received a quart of motor oil for coming the greatest distance and Cecil McCombs received yds. of bubble gum for those twenty nine grand children.

Upon Motion by Raymond Hawver and second by Hurschel Fitch the old officers were retained. Times haven't changed much as I noted from the minutes back in 1913 a protest by John Fitch Pres. against the possibility of life tenure of office was over ridden. Why not correct that this year? at least give it a thought. Meeting was then adjourned.

Ice cream was served to all and the push broom squad were busy with their cleaning, we left for our homes hoping more cousins would join us next year.

1963

An ideal cool day it was as 45 Fitch cousins gathered to enjoy the "61st" annual reunion of the Nathaniel and Sarah E. Fitch families at River Lodge Schoaff Park on July 14, 1963. We were happy to welcome some who had not been with us for some time - also the old "stand by's" whom we greet each year.

after the usual comments - "My! how you have grown" - some taller, some older, some wider - the latter comment we ignored as we gathered around the calorie laden serving table to do justice to the chicken, ham, salads, cakes, pies and most everything you could mention. Prayer was given by Glene Pursey.

Our Pres. Jake Kell presided at the short business session. After roll call and minutes of the last meeting were read and approved - Greetings were read from Margie Oganne of Wis. Alice Kephart of Den. Alice Fitch of Minn. Josephine Fitch of Waterloo and a wire from Sara Fair Sleeper of Kans.

Treas. report was given by Helen Hauver with a Bal. of \$51.28. The Historian Carolyn Davis reported 2 weddings, 2 births and 2 who had gone on.

Upon motion by Forrest Fitch and second by Fred Fitch the old officers were retained after much discussion and 3 might-add protest.

We extended a vote of thanks to Helen Hauver for her loyal support and waiting in line in cold January to reserve the pavilion which is ideal for our meetings.

after adjournment we were served ice cream.

1964

62st ~~nd.~~

35 Fitch cousins were present at the 62nd annual reunion fo the Nathaniel and Sarah E. Fitch Families at the River Lodge, Shoaff Park, Fort Wayne, Indiana on July 26, 1964.

A delicious potluck dinner ~~ax~~ was enjoyed by all. All went home a pound or two heavier.

Pr@sident Jake Kell presided at a short business meeting. The roll call was taken and the secretary's report read and approved.

The Treas. report was given by Helan Hawver with a balance of 45.48.

Carolyn Davis gave the Historian report as fallows:

Births	Deaths	Weddings
4	5	7

After much discussion new officers were elected.

President	Hurshel Fitch
V. President	Forrest Fitch
Secretary	Mrs. Pearl Gladbach
Treasurer	Mrs. Helen Hawver

After the meeting was adjurned we were served ice. cream.

Pres. Jake Kell

Sec. Marguerette Fitch Wert

1965

1966

The 64th annual Reunion of the Nathaniel and Sarah E. Fitch Family was held on a very pleasant July 14th 1966, at the River Lodge, Shoaff Park Fort Wayne, Indiana

Thirty-Six of the Fitch Cousins were present.

a delicious pot-luck dinner was enjoyed by all, after which our Pres. Hershel Fitch opened the business meeting.

11. 13rd reunion were

The Treas. report
balance of 53.55.

Messages were read from those Cousins not present, they were from Mrs Le Roy Beer, Mrs Alan Sleeper, Mrs Margie Ozyanne, Mrs Burgess Fitch, Mark Stratton and Alice Fitch. It is always wonderful to hear from those cousins who are unable to attend the reunion.

The Historian Carolyn Davis reported that there had been one wedding, four Births, and one death since the last reunion.

a nominating Committee consisting of Helen Bowlby, Fred Fitch and Marguerette West was selected to present a slate of officers for the following year. The committee selected Hershel Fitch for

1967

65th
64th

The 65th annual Reunion of the Nathaniel and Sarah C. Titch Family was held on a very warm July 23rd 1967 at the River Lodge, Shoaff Park, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Forty-one Children & adults of the Titch family were present to enjoy the wonderful pot-luck dinner.

after the dinner an informal business meeting was held with our president Hershel Titch presiding. Many letters from our cousins from out of town were read by Carolyn Davis, (historian). The letters were from Sara Ann Sleeper, Alden Kansas; Eunice & Merlin Titch, Wenatchee Washington; Margie Ozanne, Davenport Iowa; Mrs LeRoy Beer, Rochester New York; Mrs Otto Silha, Edina Minnesota; & Lucile Titch Kiernan, Mertztown Re. after the letters were read it was decided by those present that the officers remain for the coming year. after which the business meeting was adjourned.

a telephone call to Raymond & Helen Stuver was made to wish them a fine day since this was the first reunion they had missed for many years.

Then ice-cream was served & enjoyed by all after which we all adjourned to leave for our respective homes.

Respectively Submitted

Pres
Secy

1968

The ⁶⁵~~66~~th annual reunion of the Nathaniel & Sarah C. Litch Families was held at the River Lodge Shraff Park, Fort Wayne, Indiana, on a sunny warm July 21st 1968 beginning at 12 noon.

Fifty-four of the Litch Clan enjoyed a delicious carry-in dinner.

An informal business meeting was then held with letters read from Sara Tai Sleeper, Margie Ozanne, Nina Tai, & Robert Beers. We then received greetings from LeRoy Beers daughter, Mrs. Dennis Adams, Victor Litch from Mass. & Sarah Elizabeth De Bolt from Florida.

A report was then given by our historian Carolyn Davis. The meeting was then adjourned and everyone enjoyed ice cream after which we all left for our homes.

Respectively Submitted
Pres
Secy

1969

On a sunny July 20th, 1969 at the River Lodge Shoaff Park Fort Wayne, Indiana, the annual reunion of the Nathaniel and Sarah E. Fitch families was held beginning with a delicious basket dinner.

After everyone enjoyed the wonderful meal an informal business meeting was held, conducted by HURSHEL FITCH PRES.

First on the agenda was the roll call, 48 cousins were present this year. After roll call an election of officers was held. IVAN FITCH was elected pres, Becky Bailey sect. Helen Hawver tres. and Carolyn Davis historian. Letters were then read from Bill Fitch, and Alice Fitch.

A friendly address to all her cousins was given by Marrgie Ozanne who was here for the reunion from Davenport, Iowa.

THE meeting was then ajourned, and we all enjoyed ice cream while visting with one another, after which we all left for our own homes.

Respectively Submitted

1970

The 68th annual reunion of the Nathaniel and Sarah C. Titch families was held on a rainy July 21st 1970, at the River Lodge Shoaff Park Fort Wayne, Indiana.

after a delicious carry in hot luck dinner enjoyed by all, Ivan Titch pres. called everyone to order for an informal business meeting. Ivan's wife Nancy gave a very nice Memorial to those gone on before us.

The roll call was next in order with 60 cousins present this year.

after the roll call the minutes of last years meeting were read and approved.

Carolyn Davis then read letters from many cousins they were

Leander Stratton, Alice Titel, Margaret Shaffer, Sue Spangler, Elizabeth Pearson, Charlotte Wueppel, Robert Leroy Beers, Dorothy Jane Ozyanne, and Elizabeth Jane Dartner.

Olive Dolene Pusey received a phone call from Sarah Sleeper in Alden Kansas wishing all the cousins a wonderful reunion.

Helen Howver gave a treasures report.

Expenses	35.19	after expenses taken
Bank Balance	48.49	out we would have
Collected 68th	78.00	a 91.30 Bank Bal.

now reunited

SECRETARY'S MINUTES OF 69TH REUNION

ON JULY 18TH, 1971, THE 69TH ANNUAL REUNION OF THE NATHANIEL AND SARAH E. FITCH FAMILIES WAS HELD ON A BEAUTIFUL WARM SUNNY DAY, AT THE RIVER LODGE SHOAFF PARK, FORT WAYNE, INDIANA.

DINNER BEGAN AROUND 12:30 PM WITH A PRAYER OFFERED BY RUSSELL PUSEY. THE MEAL WAS DELICIOUS, WHAT ELSE COULD WE EXPECT FROM THE FITCH CLAN!

AROUND 1:30 PM IVAN FITCH, OUR PRESIDENT, BEGAN THE BUSINESS MEETING. INSTEAD OF A ROLL CALL, EVERYONE WAS REMINDED TO SIGN THE REGISTER SLIP. THERE WERE 57 COUSINS PRESENT THIS YEAR. THE MINUTES OF THE 68TH REUNION WERE READ AND APPROVED. AFTER THE MINUTES, GREETINGS FROM 14 OF THE COUSINS WERE READ AND ENJOYED BY ALL. THEY INCLUDED MRS. DENNIS ADAMS, MR. & MRS. CHRIS FAIR, SISTER M. ALMA LOUISE, MRS. CHARLES CASSELL, MRS. MARGIE BEERS OZANNE, MR. WILLIAM D. FITCH, MR. & MRS. KENNETH HARVEY, MRS. ELIZABETH BRESSLER GARTNER, MRS. CLAUDIA MACINNES, MR. & MRS. PALMER FAIR BRESSLER, MRS. HELEN HAWVER FLORSHEIM, MR. & MRS. CECIL FITCH, MR. & MRS. OTTO SILHA AND A LOVELY LETTER AND A VERY GENEROUS GIFT OF 50.00 DOLLARS WAS RECEIVED FROM MR. HAROLD STRATTON AND HIS SISTER MRS. MARGUERITE STRATTON NOBLES.

AFTER THE GREETING, HELEN HAWVER GAVE US THE TREASURER'S REPORT.

BALANCE ON HAND WITH INTEREST		\$ 95.70	
EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR			
DRY ICE & ICE CREAM	\$10.76		
STAMPS, PAPER PRINTING	24.97		
& ENVELOPES			
PAVILION	12.00		
	<u>\$47.73</u>		
		-47.73	
		<u>\$47.97</u>	
COLLECTED		66.00	
GIFT		50.00	
		<u>50.00</u>	
TOTAL		\$163.97	

CAROLYN DAVIS THEN GAVE US ALL THE RECORDED BIRTHS AND MARRIAGES FOR THIS YEAR. THERE WERE NO REPORTED DEATHS. THERE WERE 14 BIRTHS AND 8 MARRIAGES. HELEN BOWLBY THEN GAVE US A BRIEF HISTORY AND INFORMED US WE WERE RELATED TO THE GOVERNOR WILLIAM BRADFORD OF THE MAYFLOWER.

A DISCUSSION ABOUT A CONTAINER TO KEEP THE FITCH RECORDS AND PICTURES WAS BROUGHT UP AGAIN. THE COMMITTEE HAD MADE NO DECISIONS BECAUSE THE CONTAINERS AVAILABLE WERE EITHER TOO EXPENSIVE OR NOT LARGE ENOUGH FOR OUR PURPOSES.

CAROLYN DAVIS THEN GAVE US THE DETAILS CONCERNING THE HISTORY BOOK WE ARE PLANNING TO HAVE MADE. IT WAS MOVED BY VICTOR FITCH AND SECONDED BY IOLENE PUSEY THAT AS MANY PICTURES, A COAT OF ARMS, AND AN INEXPENSIVE COVER BE PROVIDED WITH THE HISTORY. THE MOTION WAS CARRIED.

IT WAS THEN MOVED BY VICTOR FITCH AND SECONDED BY JOHN FITCH AND CARRIED BY THOSE PRESENT THAT THE ROSCOE CONKLING COAT OF ARMS BE USED.

FRED FITCH THEN MOVED AND JOHN SECONDED TO EMPOWER THE COMMITTEE TO DECIDE ON THE PRICE AS THEY SEE FIT. THE MOTION WAS CARRIED.

VICTOR FITCH MOVED AND IOLENE PURSEY SECONDED THAT MRS. DAVIS BE PROVIDED MONEY FROM THE TREASURY FOR STAMPS AND ENVELOPES FOR THE EXTRA MAILING AND CORRESPONDENCE WHICH WILL BE NECESSARY IN CONNECTION WITH THE HISTORY BOOK. THE MOTION WAS CARRIED AT WHICH TIME THE OFFICERS VOLUNTEERED THEIR SERVICES FOR ANOTHER YEAR. THE MEETING WAS THEN ADJOURNED AND WE ALL ENJOYED VISITING AND EATING A LOT OF ICE CREAM.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

BECKY DAVIS BAILEY, SEC.
IVAN FITCH PRES.

Ms. Carolyn Davis
1922 Hazelwood Ave
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46805

Carolyn Davis then gave us the details concerning the history book we are planning to have made. It was moved by Victor Titch and seconded by Dolene Pusey that as many pictures, a coat of arms, and an inexpensive cover be provided with the history. The motion was carried.

It was then moved by Victor Titch and seconded by John Titch and the motion carried by those present that the Roscal Conkling Coat of arms be used. Fred Titch then moved and John Titch seconded to empower the committee to decide on the price as they see fit. The motion was carried. Victor Titch moved and Dolene Pusey seconded that Mrs Davis be provided money from the treasury for stamps & envelopes for the extra mailing & Correspondance which will be necessary in connection with the history book. This Motion was carried at which time the officers volunteered their services for another year. The meeting was then adjourned and we all enjoyed visiting and eating a lot of ice cream

Respectfully Submitted

1971

On July 18th 1971 the 68th annual reunion of the Nathaniel and Sarah C. Fitch families was held on a beautiful warm sunny day at the River Lodge Shoaff Park, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dinner began around 12³⁰-pm with a prayer offered by
The meal was delicious, what else could we expect from the Fitch clan!

Around 1³⁰-pm Ivan Fitch our president began the business meeting. Instead of a roll call everyone was reminded to sign the register slip. There were 57 Cousins present this year. The minutes of the 68th Reunion were read & approved. After the minutes greetings from 14 of the Cousins were read and enjoyed by all. They included Mrs Dennis Adams, Mr & Mrs Chris Fair, Sister M. Alma Louise, Mrs Charles Cassell, Mrs Margie Beers Ozanne, Mr William D. Fitch, Mr & Mrs Kenneth Harvey, Mrs Elizabeth Bressler Gartner, Mrs Claudia MacInnes, Mr & Mrs Palmer Jais Bressler, Mrs Helen Hawver Florsheim, Mr & Mrs Cecil Fitch, Mr & Mrs Otto Silpa. A lovely letter and a very generous gift of 50.00 dollars

1972

69

The 40th Annual Reunion of the Nathaniel and Sarah C. Fitch families was held on a pleasant July 23rd 1972, at Shoaff Park, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

The basket carry in dinner was enjoyed by everyone.

Afterwards our president Ivan Fitch called the business meeting to order. The minutes of the 1971 reunion were read and approved. The roll call was taken and the two oldest present were Margie Beers Ozanne who is 93 years old, and Parker Fitch who is 86 years old our Cousins from Sleeper Kansas came the farthest.

We had correspondence from Eunice and Merlin Fitch Washington tch Ohio, Eunice and James Moody Arizona, Dorothy and Donald Stratton Montana, Ellen Beers Adams New York, Helen Hawver Horshorn Mass., Marguerite Stratton Nobles Florida, and Claudia Mac Innes.

after the correspondence we had
the election of a new secretary. The
nomination of Betty Fitch was
made by Forrest Fitch and Carolyn
Davis. Betty was elected unanimously.

There was a discussion about where
to keep old pictures and records, but
no decision was reached this year.

Carolyn Davis then passed out
the Fitch family history which
everyone enjoyed looking at and
talking about. We all enjoyed
the traditional ice cream and
then began to say our good-bys
until next year.

Respectfully Submitted
Sec.

Tres. In Bank 193.91
collected 103.39

Bill Cassell

NEW ZIP CODE AND E-MAIL

Bill, Bernadine & Alex Cassell

9 Independence Avenue, Lexington, MA
02421

781-862-6172 cassellcw@aol.com

Please Note!

If your Newsletter was forwarded from a prior address, we do not have your current address, and future Newsletters will not be forwarded by the Post Office.

Please help us up-date our Fitch family records by filling out the following form and sending it to:

Bill Cassell
9 Independence Avenue
Lexington MA 02173

Or FAX to: 781-862-5319
Or e-mail to: cassellcw@aol.com

Your Name: _____ Phone # _____

New Address: _____

Changes within your family since Spring 1994, unless already reported to me.

Births or Adoptions

Full Name

Date of Birth

Birthplace

Parents of above child: _____

Parents of above child: _____

Parents of above child: _____

Parents of above child: _____

Marriages

Fitch Descendant's Name

Full Name

_____ to _____

DOB _____ Birthplace _____

_____ to _____

DOB _____ Birthplace _____

Divorces

Fitch Descendant's Name

Ex-Spouse's Name

_____ from _____

_____ from _____

Deaths

Name

Date of Death

Burial Place (if known)

September 27, 1998

Dear Bill,

Just a note to let you know we are still thinking on the reunion, but my mind seems to go blank on just how to pull it off. I do intend to go talk to Phyllis Fitch in the next couple of weeks if they are home and all is OK over there. I have not talked to her for quite some time. Still have not seen the photos she took and the information she got on her trip to Pennsylvania.

It has been such a busy summer and don't know where it could possibly have gone!! But sure enough, it has evaporated! We have gone to one reunion after another this year. It was my 50th anniversary of graduation and I ended up with going to 2 different ones as I graduated from Garrett, but most of my school years were spent at Leo, except the last one, so got invitations from both of them. Warren had a one-room schoolhouse reunion of Butler Township, DeKalb County. We had a 125th celebration of a church we attended as teenagers and still have a lot of friends there. A reunion of my mother's family also. So seems we are reunited and banqueted out.

One of the things we did a few weeks ago, was to go to Miami County, Ohio, where Sarah Elizabeth DeLong was born and raised. By chance we stumbled onto the right church and cemetery where the DeLongs, her parents, and a couple of brothers were buried. (By chance, was that I found the right place while researching in the library on Miami County) So we did know where we were going and had friends that lived about 10 miles from there, so we went to visit them too. This is in a little town named Phoneton. Called that I would guess because at one time it was the central phone exchange for the area.

By the time we went I had the family worked out pretty well on the DeLong side. There were 14 children in the family of George DeLong, Sr., and Elizabeth Statler. George came from Botetourt, Virginia, and Elizabeth was born in Pennsylvania. So far I have not found where they were married or just when. It appears that George may have been married before and had a son named George, Jr. as Elizabeth Statler was not old enough to have a son born in 1800. And we have George DeLong (probably Jr.) buried here in DeKalb County. George DeLong, Sr. was born circa 1772 and died 1836 and Elizabeth Statler DeLong was born in 1787 and died in 1872. So George was several years older than she was. They are both buried in Bethel German Reformed Church Cemetery in Bethel Township, Miami County. And the small town it is in is called Phoneton, Ohio.

Along with George and Elizabeth, we find a son William and his wife Mary Ann. Also there is a stone with the name of David DeLong on it, but it is very hard to read so could not get a date off of it at all. Then there is also the tombstone of a Benjamin Crane and his wife Elizabeth DeLong Crane and she was born in 1775, so would guess she is a sister to George DeLong, Sr.

So anyway, it was an interesting trip and I took several pictures of the cemetery and the stones. They are in rather bad shape. I am sending a copy of some of them to give you an idea. Should you want original photos I will have them at the reunion. Actually thought I might make up a page on the DeLong family and make some copies to hand out at the next reunion. So far I have found that this is a success at the reunions we have gone to. I did that for the Leo High School group and they loved it. The other possibility is that I could make up the page or more and it could be put in the Newsletter after the reunion. Or maybe some of both. Think on it, but I think this will be new information that no one else has, unless someone else has made that trip to Ohio.

Another thing of interest that I have done is to join the Wyoming County Historical Society in Tunkhannock. They have publications that they put out twice a year just on that county and it's history, and census, birth, marriage, and death records. I ended up getting quite a few of their past publications and have gone through them. They are very interesting, but not a lot of new information. Most of it is about the family that stayed in Pennsylvania, and not our Nathaniel, of course. But gives good detail on alot that went on in those days.

In the section on inquiries, I found a lady who was asking questions about this same family and so even though this had been written 5 years ago I still contacted her and she answered! She gave me one more piece of the puzzle, but still haven't nailed it down as yet. She gave in a will that she found the children, John, Gideon, and Susannah as listed as grandchildren in her will. We know the grandmother and it is very likely that this is the very family that came to Pennsylvania. So we have it set up that since the will was made out in 1777, it would have been before our Nathaniel, born 1781/2 was born and naturally would not be listed. So very possible that he and Gideon had an older brother named John and an older sister named Susannah. This all seems very likely when you look at the census report for PA in 1790. We are still working on this and will continue until we have dug up everything there is to dig up! This lady lives in California and her name is Ann (Sickler) Hassold and she comes down through Nathaniel Fitch I and Sarah Keeler. Her ancestor Abigail Fitch married Jacob Sickler. Abigail was a sister to our Indiana Nathaniel.

In fact this grandmother who named the grandchildren in her will was Elizabeth Beers and she married John Fitch, who probably died in 1748, and then she married Henry Elis. So wonder if that family is any relation to your Beers family and Levi??

So it has been an interesting summer. Also out of the blue one day I received a package in the mail from a lady in LaGrange, Indiana, and when I opened it there were several pages of genealogy and photos of my grandmother on my dad's side and her family way back. This lady sent me beautiful pages of genealogy she made up on her computer. Not FTM, but one called Brother's Keeper. Anyway, I was so excited as she had gone back

several generations further than I had ever gone in the Shaffer family. So now we are writing back and forth and I am helping her complete the current generations. Actually I never knew this grandmother as she died when my dad was only 3 years old, and so when my grandfather married again this was the only Grandmother Brown I ever knew. And she passed away this summer at the age of 102.

No, I haven't heard from Mary Louise either this summer. Guess last time I wrote Warren's mother was not good, but she has recovered nicely. We did change nursing homes, because the cost had skyrocketed in Millers, and from all reports this one in Auburn is just as good and about half the price. She seems to be adjusting well now, and is getting around in her wheel chair again and they said we could even take her out for a ride in the car if we wanted to.

If you get any brainstormers about the reunion, let us know. I don't know if Phyllis will be interested in helping out, but think we need to make it as simple as possible for everyone. Hope you and your family are well. I know we don't have anyone in our family who will want to get involved as they are all so busy with their individual jobs and lives at this time and suppose that is the way it is with most of the young folks. Maybe the Doves might be interested in helping and Carolyn's children. Also could check with Ann Lyons. And perhaps the Colvins. Well, better stop for now.

Summary

Event	Description	July				August			
		Total	17	24	31	7	15		
Response Total	Families	43	31	29	28	24	25		
	Adults	101	75	67	63	49	53		
	Children	10	8	5	6	4	5		
	Total	111	83	72	69	53	58		
Saturday Lunch	Adults	99	80	74	69	56	59		
	Children	10	8	5	6	4	5		
	Total	109	88	79	75	60	64		
Friday Evening	Adults	55	41	39	40	37	40		
	Families	24	17	16	17	17	18		
Sunday Morning	Adults	26	20	20	22	16	15		
	Families	13	10	10	11	8	8		
Overnight	Families	9	7	7	6	7	6		

12/14/98

Dear Betty,

Here's the detail I promised you on my e-mail message. Based on this, July 17 looks best. My guess is that we'll do better than 88 at lunch.

Keep up the good work.

Bill Cassell

Detail

Last Name	First Name	City	State	July	August	Adults	Children	Sat	Fri	Sun	Over	Spec. Needs
Brogren	Mary Belle	Birmingham Hill	MI	17 1 1 1	7 1 1 1	1		1	1	1		
Cassell	Bill	Lexington	MA	17 1 1	7 1 1	2	1	1	1	1	FS	
Colvin	Neal	Fort Wayne	IN	17 1 1	7 1 1	4		1	1			
Davis	David	Fort Wayne	IN	17 1 1 1	7 1 1 1	2		1	1			
Davis	Jason	Williamston	MI	17 1 1 1	7 1 1 1	2		1				
Fitch	Betty	Fort Wayne	IN	17 1 1 1	7 1 1 1	2		1	1			
Fitch	Catherine	Worthington	OH	17 1 1 1	7 1 1 1	2		1				
Fitch	Glenn	Fort Wayne	IN	17 1 1 1	7 1 1 1	6	1	1	1			Wheelchair Ac
Fitch	James	Auburn	IN	17 1 1 1	7 1 1 1	2		1	1			
Geller	Anne	Churubusco	IN	17 1 1	7 1 1	4		1				
Houser	Kent	Akron	OH	17 1 1 1	7 1 1 1	2	3	1		1	FS	
Houser	Richard	Xenia	OH	17 1 1 1	7 1 1 1	2		1				
Lyon	Russell	Huntertown	IN	17 1 1 1	7 1 1 1	2		1	1			
McComb	Danford	Fort Wayne	IN	17 1 1 1	7 1 1 1	2		1	1	1		
McCrea	Jeanne	Crystal Lake	IL	17 1 1 1	7 1 1 1	2		1	1	1		
McDaniel	Ruth Ann	Colendale	AZ	17 1 1 1	7 1 1 1	2		1	1	1	FS	
Monroe	Bryan	Beaverton	OR	17 1 1 1	7 1 1 1	2		1				
Moudy	Norman	Vancouver	WA	17 1 1	7 1 1	2		1	1	1		
Peterson	Sandra	Chelsea	MI	17 1 1	7 1 1	1		1	1		FS	
Ropp	Annette	Bristol	IN	17 1 1	7 1 1	2		1				
Sleeper	Sara	Alden	KS	17 1 1 1	7 1 1 1	2		1	1	1	FS	
Sloffer	Walter	Huntertown	IN	17 1 1	7 1 1	2		1				
Smith	Marilyn	Garrett	IN	17 1 1 1	7 1 1 1	2		1				
Spangler	Randy	Pasadena	CA	17 1 1	7 1 1	2		1	1	1	FS	
Wuepper	Charlotte	St. Joseph	MI	17 1 1 1	7 1 1	3		1	1	1	FS	
Click	Mary	Angola	IN	17 1	7 1	3		1				
Hamilton	Robert	Angola	IN	17 1	7 1	2	1	1				
Kelham	Ann	LaOtto	IN	17 1 1	7 1 1	4		1	1			
Kell	Fred	Huntertown	IN	17 1	7 1	6	1	1				
Scofield	Christy	Indianapolis	IN	17 1	7 1 1	2	1	1				
Seeger	Lee	Fort Wayne	IN	17 1 1	7 1 1	1		1				

OK dates

Will attend

Fr. & Sat
Overnight
Hotel/Motel

Nathaniel & Sarah DeLong Fitch Family Reunion Newsletter

1999 Reunion Invitation

The eighty-eighth reunion of the
Nathaniel and Sarah DeLong Fitch Family
will be held July 16th, 17th and 18th, 1999,
in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

You and your family are urged to let
nothing prevent your attendance.

Our 1999 Reunion invitation is similar to that of the 1912 Reunion, except we have excluded the line "Conveyances will meet cars leaving Fort Wayne and Garrett at 9:30 a.m."

115 Years of Family Reunions

Few families can claim a tradition similar to ours. The first documented Fitch family reunion was in 1884 at the Fitch Homestead on Coldwater Road in Huntertown, Indiana. Starting in 1902, the reunions were held almost annually, until 1986 at descendants' homes, churches and parks in the Fort Wayne area. Reunions were not held in 1944 or 1945 due to gasoline rationing, which made it difficult, if not unpatriotic, to travel for non-essential purposes.

A small, largely local Fitch reunion was held in 1992 at Sharon and Alex Jokay's home in Auburn, Indiana. The last full-fledged, "you-all-come" reunion drew 90 Fitch descendants to the Northside Park in Fort Wayne from all over the country.

The reunions were held on July 4th until 1954, when a weekend day, usually Sunday, became the day-of-choice. Families began gathering at the appointed location in mid-morning and shared a "basket dinner" at noon. During the afternoon, the children played games and explored, while the adults chatted with one another.

A formal reunion business meeting was always held, where births and deaths were reported and correspondence from those who could not attend was read. Family stories were told and recorded. The family treasurers reported on contributions to and uses of the Fitch Fund, which rarely had net assets of more than a few dollars. The purchase of ice cream was always an essential expenditure.

Minutes of these meetings were prepared by the family secretaries and are part of our family records.

Schedule of 1999 Reunion Events

Friday, July 17

7:00 - 10:00 pm - An informal gathering in the Summit Room at the Courtyard Marriott. Family genealogy, photos, records, and memorabilia will be available. Drop by, have a cup of coffee, get acquainted with your kin, and prowl through 150 years of family history at your leisure.

Saturday, July 18 (More on page 2)

11:00 AM - Help set up for the Basket Dinner at River Lodge in Shoaff Park. All of the family genealogy, photos, etc. will be on display. Now and after dinner you can order copies of photos, documents and family trees.

12:00 noon - **The Basket Dinner**. A potluck meal with everyone contributing something.

1:00 pm - Group photos of the Fitch families.
(Wouldn't it be nice to have the Fitch flag as background for these photos?) "f + s"

1:15 pm - A brief family business meeting.

1:45 - 4:00 pm - Chatting, stories, games for the kids.

Sunday, July 19

Brunch at a local restaurant or the Courtyard Marriott for anyone who hasn't had enough of their Fitch kin by now. We'll finalize these plans on Saturday.

Saturday, July 17, 1999 11:00 AM - 4:00 pm

Who's Invited: Anyone who is related to Nathaniel and Sarah DeLong Fitch by birth, adoption or marriage. This may be one of the last all-encompassing Fitch Family Reunions, so you should try to attend, even if you are not terribly interested in your Fitch past. Some descendant or relative of yours may someday ask you what you know about your ancestors. This will be a good time to gather that information and make contacts with Fitch kin.

Where: River Lodge at Shoaff Park, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

What: Basket Dinner at 12:00 noon

When I was young, we called this a potluck dinner. Every family brings a dish of food to share - meat, pasta, potatoes, beans, salad, vegetables, appetizers, dessert. Somehow, as Carolyn Davis once told me, it all works out so there is ample food with lots of variety, including kid-friendly foods. Relatives who are traveling some distance can purchase take-out or baked goods from local stores on Saturday morning.

The Reunion Committee will provide coffee, tea, lemonade & punch, paper plates & cups, eating utensils, napkins, condiments, and, of course, lots of ice cream dipped from 5 gallon containers (a Fitch reunion tradition).

Overnight Accommodations

Courtyard Marriott
1619 W. Washington Center Road
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46819

We have reserved a block of 15 rooms for the nights of July 16 and July 17 at the Courtyard Marriott, which is located near Shoaff Park. When you call to make a reservation, tell them that you are with the Fitch Family Reunion. With enough Fitch guests, the Summit Room will be provided without charge on Friday evening.

Rooms with 2 double beds are \$59 plus taxes.

The Courtyard serves a buffet breakfast daily and has numerous amenities: A quiet lounge, an exercise room, an indoor/outdoor pool and whirlpool, in-room coffee service, etc. Non-smoking rooms are available.

If you need transportation from the hotel to Shoaff Park, we can provide it.

For reservations: Call 1-800-321-2211 or 219-489-1500.

What Else:

Group Photos at 1:00 pm

Family Business Meeting @ 1:15 pm

At each reunion we recognize the eldest generations present and announce the births and deaths that have occurred since the last reunion. (THAT'S WHY WE NEED YOUR VITAL RECORDS UPDATED.) Correspondence from non-attendees will be read, and the future of our reunions and newsletter will be discussed. A treasurer's report on our reunion finances will be presented, and we will probably pass the hat. Before we close, we'll have a drawing for door prizes. (The children can be off playing in the park during and after this meeting.)

Chatting, Story-telling & Browsing Family Keepsakes

All of the old family photos and records, as well as some memorabilia, will be on-hand. We'll have a system in place so that you can order copies (at cost) of photos and documents. The family's vital records have been loaded into the PC software "Family Tree Maker", so printed family trees and diskette files will be available. Some back issues of our newsletters will also be available.

Tours of Fitch Landmarks - After 4:00 pm

Guided or self-guided tours will be available.

Cost: \$5.00 per adult; children are free.

What to Bring

Basket Dinner dish(es) with serving utensils (if possible)

Family photos, memorabilia, artifacts, clothes, etc.

Family stories and recollections

Outdoor games for children (balls, bats, croquet sets, etc.)
(or indoor games, if the weather is bad)

What to do if you can't come

1. Send your greetings and/or family news and recent photos of you and your family to Betty Fitch.
2. Send a financial contribution to support the Fitch Family Reunion activities to Betty Fitch. (This mailing will create a negative balance for the Fitch Fund.)

RSVP: Please reply by June 30 if you can attend.

Mrs. Betty Fitch 219-637-6401
14615 Auburn Road wfitch5413@aol.com
Fort Wayne, IN 46845





1884 Fitch Reunion at the Homestead in Perry County, Indiana

July 9, 2005

Dear Betty,

I was pleased to learn that you received the photo and were able to identify many of our kin. Your check, while appreciated, is unnecessary, as I still have some Fitch dollars on account. Would any other photos be useful? I have duped many old photos, only a few of which ended up in newsletters. Now about a set of all the reunion photos that appeared in the Fall '93

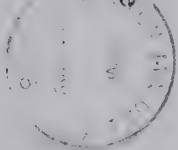
Newsletter?

Well, we missed 2004, and I suspect that our mailing list is now grossly out-of-date. Yet we need some local (St. Maigue) help. Teaching third graders helps me too busy to aggressive by pursue family history. But all remain interested and very willing to help when I can.

Sincerely,

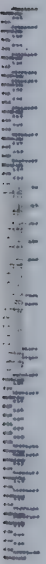
Bill

Fitch Family Reunion
9 Independence Avenue
Lexington, MA 02421



The Warren J. Fitch Family
14615 Auburn Rd.
Fort Wayne, IN 46845

IMPORTANT REUNION NEWS



Dear Cousin,

We are planning for the 1999 Nathaniel and Sarah Fitch Family Reunion, to be held this summer in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and we need to know how many of you hope to attend. While it is sad to say, this may be the last all inclusive reunion, as the branches of our family tree are simply growing too far from our common trunk. Therefore, I encourage you to come.

All of our family photos, documents, books, and family trees will be available. Tours of Fitch sites are planned. A potluck luncheon with activities for children will be held on Saturday, and more informal gatherings are planned for Friday evening and Sunday morning.

If you hope to attend, please fill out and mail the attached postcard so that we can arrange a suitable location for the luncheon and a common motel for out-of-town kin. Check off those dates when you could attend.

We need to hear from you by December 15, so mail your card as soon as possible.

Bill Cassell

781-862-6172

Fitch Family Reunion
9 Independence Avenue
Lexington, MA 02421

1999 Fitch Family Reunion - July 16, 17 & 18 in Fort Wayne, Indiana

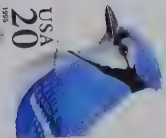


1884 Fitch Family Reunion at the Fitch Homestead

The traditional potluck lunch will be held on Saturday, July 17, at the River Lodge in Shoaff Park. There will be informal gatherings of your kin on Friday evening and Sunday morning. **Reserve the dates** for family good times. More information will be sent to you when it's available.

Fitch Family Reunion
9 Independence Avenue
Lexington, MA 02421

The Warren J. Fitch Family
14615 Auburn Rd.
Fort Wayne, IN 46845



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1999 Fitch Family Reunion - July 16, 17 & 18
in Fort Wayne, Indiana



1864 Fitch Family Reunion at the Fitch Homestead

The traditional potluck lunch will be held on Saturday, July 17, at the River Lodge in Shoalt Park. There will be informal gatherings of your kin on Friday evening and Sunday morning. **Reserve the dates** for family good times. More information will be sent to you when it's available.

1999 PAVILION FEES (NON-RESIDENT)

The Parks and Recreation Department maintains 19 pavilions at various locations throughout the park system. These pavilions may be reserved for your special occasions or events from May through October. (Selected pavilions are available all year round.) Reservations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis up to 12 months in advance. Pavilions vary in seating capacity and amenities and range in price from \$22 to \$140 per day (9:00 a.m. to 10:50 p.m.) on weekdays and from \$27 to \$203 per day on weekends. Non-resident fees are higher. Reservations must be made and paid for at least two weeks in advance. Please call 427-6015 for more information.

Pavilion	Location (Park)	Seating	M-F	S-S
Foster #1	Foster	336	\$88	\$114
Foster #2	Foster	128	\$29	\$40
Franke #1	Franke	296	\$140	\$203
Franke #2	Franke	128	\$29	\$40
Franke Pond	Franke	70	\$92	\$119
Kettler	Kettler	46	\$37	\$40
Lakeside #1	Lakeside	72	\$60	\$81
Lakeside #2	Lakeside	80	\$60	\$81
Lions	Lions	48	\$37	\$46
McCormick	McCormick	104	\$60	\$81
McMillen	McMillen	256	\$104	\$124
Memorial	Memorial	160	\$37	\$46
Psi Ote Lower	Northside	80	\$92	\$119
Psi Ote Upper	Northside	96	\$84	\$108
Rockhill	Rockhill	32	\$22	\$27
Sears	Indian Village	80	\$92	\$119
Shoaff Conklin	Shoaff	288	\$122	\$166
Shoaff Riverlodge	Shoaff	200	\$122	\$166
Waynedale	Waynedale	42	\$37	\$46

WINTER PAVILIONS AND RATES (November through April)

Pavilion	Location (Park)	Seating	Fee (M-F, S-S)
Franke #1	Franke	296	\$221
Psi Ote Lower	Northside	80	\$137
Riverlodge	Shoaff	200	\$189
Sears	Indian Village	80	\$137

Groups in excess of 300 people will be charged \$310 for pavilion use.
Groups in excess of 500 people will be charged \$440 for pavilion use.

Another short note that may be of interest to you. Remember the photo of Jefferson Sickler? I had a copy made and sent it to Ann Sickler Hassold, my Fitch/Sickler cohort who lives in California. She sent back what information she has on Jefferson.

Ann is a descendant of Abigail Fitch and Jacob Sickler, sister of our Nathaniel. We have corresponded for quite some time and she is very good at her research and has been so good and faithful to send me things like copies of wills of the Norwalk Fitches and that is where I finally decided that the Thomas Fitch line was probably the correct line for our family. It was not on her word, but on the handwritten wills, land records, and things that she sent that convinced me on this. When you see the peoples names, places, signatures, and where they name their children and grandchildren in handwriting and not in someone's book, that convinces me. Not that books are not good, but to convince ourselves we have to sometimes go to the source and see it for ourselves. I must be from Missouri!! No, still Indiana.

Anyway she sent me the information on Jefferson Sickler.

Son of John Sickler, born June 1814, in New York, died Nov. 9, 1863 in Overfield Township, Wyoming Co., PA.
and

Sarah Fitch (daughter of Nathaniel and Sarah Keeler Fitch), born June 16, 1821, in Luzerne Co., PA (Luzerne and Wyoming are the same) and died January 8, 1890 in Harmony, Jerauld, South Dakota, at the home of her son Jefferson.

Jefferson was born May 17, 1843 in PA and died in Santa Cruz, California March 10, 1916. He also had a younger brother, Everett, who died in Santa Cruz, in 1927. And two other brothers, Martin and Andy.

Apparently Sarah was either living with Jefferson or visiting him when she died, and he shipped her body back to Mill City, PA, in Wyoming County for burial. She is buried in Mill City Cemetery.

Ann took some of this information from Sarah's obituary that was in the newspaper and the newspaper file is at the Wyoming Historical Society.

So Jefferson would have been a first cousin to the rest of the Fitch boys that he is with in the picture and would have been about the same age as Mathias, both born in 1843.

Jefferson married Mary Jane Hand, August 3, 1868, in Allen County, Indiana. The Hand family is a common name in Perry township, and were related to the Vandolahs and the Tuckers. Mathias's wife Frances was a Vandolah and her mother was a Tucker, and her grandmother was a Hand.

Jefferson must have just kept on moving West as he started in Pennsylvania and ended up in California. About as far West as he could go.

ALTERNATE GENEALOGY from the THOMAS FITCH family, Norwalk, CT

Several years have passed since the publishing of this Fitch Family Book and several things have surfaced since that time indicating that some of the early genealogy of the Fitch Family in America is in error. Specifically the descent from Rev. James Fitch through the various Johns.

John Townsend Fitch has written several books on the Fitch Family and being, himself, from the Rev. James Fitch line, has thoroughly researched it. His research shows that the John Fitch that is shown in our book as coming to Pennsylvania, and who is the father and grandfather of Nathaniel Fitch, Sr. and Nathaniel Fitch, Jr., was not the John Fitch who descended in the line of John Fitches from Rev. James Fitch. John Fitch who was the son of John Fitch and Mercy Lathrop stayed in Windham, CT., as did his son, and both are buried there along with their wives. The son, John, married Clarissa Wales and had James, John Jr., Lucius, and Clarissa as their children, not Gideon and Nathaniel.

So after much study and correspondence with other Fitch family members, there is an alternate genealogy to put forth. This genealogy also has a few "rough" places and we are still working on them, but conclude that the most probable line for our Nathaniel is the line of descent from Thomas Fitch, brother of Rev. James Fitch. Thomas, was a founder of Norwalk, CT, and his family is to be found there for many generations.

Thomas Fitch, Sr., father of Rev. James Fitch, Thomas Fitch, Joseph Fitch, and Samuel Fitch died in England in 1632 as is stated in our present genealogy. Rev. James came to America in 1638 and the other brothers followed. They first show up in the records about 1650 and it is possible that they came about that time. Another brother, Nathaniel, died in England in 1648 and they could have come after his death and brought their mother with them.

THOMAS FITCH (1612-1704) married ANNE STACIE in England. He has stated that the Civil War in England at that time cost him much of his fortune and it took about all he had to get his family over to America. They were of Puritan stock.

He had sons, Thomas Fitch, Jr., from whom the Governor of Connecticut descended, and JOHN FITCH living in Norwalk with him, plus some sisters. John was born in 1633 in Bocking, England. John Fitch married Rebecca Lindall. They had a son named John, born 1677, and who was the eldest, and a son named NATHANIEL who was born in 1682.

NATHANIEL FITCH (1682-1743) had three wives. The first was the mother of his children. At this time we believe her name to be Elizabeth, but have no maiden name. Her name has been found on a land transfer on which can be found both their signatures. The children of Nathaniel are John, Lindall, Elizabeth, Abigail, and Mary.

JOHN FITCH (-1748). Do not have the exact date of his birth but probably in the 1710-16 era. Lindall was born in 1717. This John appears to have married ELIZABETH BEERS. They had four children according to Elizabeth's will, and land records that have been traced.

1. Nathaniel Fitch who died in 1766
2. JOHN FITCH, born c. 1740, who may have married ELIZABETH LOCKWOOD in 1766.
3. Elizabeth Fitch, who did marry David King in 1767.
4. Susannah, who we have no further record of

There are several land transactions and some wills to determine that this family is correct and that the grandmother of John Fitch's children is Elizabeth (Beers) Fitch Ellis. We have a copy of her actual handwritten will of 1777. In it she names the children of John Fitch as 1. John Fitch, Jr. 2. Gideon Fitch 3. Susannah Fitch. The children of Elizabeth (Fitch) King, wife of David King, as 1. Nathaniel Fitch King 2. Elizabeth King 3. Sarah King. And she states that John

Fitch is her son and the father of the Fitch children mentioned in her will. After John's death she married Henry Ellis.

Elizabeth (Lockwood) Fitch died before 1783 as she is listed as deceased in her father's (John Lockwood) will. As Elizabeth (Beers) Fitch Ellis's will was written in 1777 that was probably the reason the name of Nathaniel was not found in the will. He was not born until 1782. Her death was some time before 1786.

Proposed Genealogy from Thomas Fitch as follows:

THOMAS FITCH (1612-1704) and ANNE STACIE
 JOHN FITCH (1633-) and REBECCA LINDALL
 NATHANIEL FITCH (1682-1743) and ELIZABETH
 JOHN FITCH (c. 1710-1748) and ELIZABETH BEERS
 JOHN FITCH (c. 1740- after 1810) and ELIZ. LOCKWOOD
 and MARY
 NATHANIEL FITCH I (1782-1839) and SARAH KEELER
 NATHANIEL FITCH II and SARAH ELIZABETH
 DELONG

Most of the neighbors and friends of the John Fitch family in Pennsylvania were from the Norwalk, CT, area. We find the family names fit well. The name Gideon could have come from the Lockwood family as Elizabeth had a brother named Gideon, and her grandfather was also Gideon. Susannah comes down through both the Fitch and Beers line.

The John Fitch who had John, Jr., Gideon, and Susannah sells out his homestead in Fairfield, Norwalk, CT, about 1786 and we hear no more about him in land records there. Our "John Fitch" shows up in the 1790 census of Pennsylvania and the History of Wyoming County, Pennsylvania states that he settled there in 1788 with David Morehouse. Also you will find that David King is there in the 1800 census. And David's name is listed with John's in an early list of settlers there.

There are still a couple possibilities of other genealogies, but so far none of them have been traced to our Pennsylvania John Fitch. We continue to work on all possibilities, but have concluded at this time that the link to Rev. James Fitch is incorrect as it is stated in this book, as that John Fitch is buried in Windham, CT., and there is a grave there to prove it.

A proposed alternate genealogy for the Nathaniel Fitch and Sarah DeLong family of Allen County, Indiana, and why it is needed.

In short, the genealogy in the Fitch Family History Book goes like this:

Rev. James Fitch (1622-1702) &	Priscilla Mason
Capt. John Fitch (1667-1743) &	Elizabeth Waterman
Capt. John Fitch II (1705-1760) &	Alice Fitch
John Fitch III (1732-1755) &	Mercy Lathrop
John Fitch IV (1756-	

John Fitch IV was the John that was supposed to have come to Pennsylvania by the 1790 census. Tradition says he had 2 wives and his sons were Gideon and Nathaniel. Gideon was born in 1771 as seen by his gravestone in the Roberts Cemetery. If Gideon was born in 1771 and John was born in 1756, that means that John would have been 15 years old when Gideon was born.

Since our book was published John Townsend Fitch from the Rev. James Fitch family has written several books about the Fitch Family. His third book was about the 5 generations after Rev. James. In this book he carries down the "Johns" from whom Nathaniel is supposed to be descended. From John T. Fitch's book, "The First Five Generations" page 145:

"John, Jr. (John 1, John 2, James 1) born Windham, Windham County, CT, July 14, 1732, residence Windham, graduated Yale 1753, died Windham, June 25, 1755 "in ye 22nd year of his Age" married at Canterbury, Windham County, CT, November 7, 1753, Mercy Lathrop, born Tolland, Tolland County, CT, October 1, 1736, daughter of Solomon and Susannah Lathrop. John was admitted to the Windham Church, March 2, 1742, and Mercy, March 30, 1755. After John died Mercy married (2) at Windham, July 19, 1767, Eleazer Carey, son of Eleazer and Jerusha (Wales) Carey.

According to Windham history, John operated one of several taverns in the town. Later, Mercy, then the "Widow Carey" continued to operate the "Old Fitch Tavern" "According to John Jr's tombstone he was an A.B., probably referring to his degree from Yale. John died before he completed the transfer of a deed to Elias Frink, Jr. for which he had bound himself for 2000 pounds. As a result, his widow, Mercy, appealed to the General Court in May 1756 to allow her to complete the transaction."

Children were: ALICE, born Windham, January 1, 1755
JOHN, born Canterbury, Jan 11, 1756

John Fitch (John 4, John 3, John 2, James 1) born Canterbury, Windham County, CT, January 11, 1756, residence Windham. Died Windham, June 22, 1807, "in the 52nd year of his age". He married February 24, 1780, Clarissa Wales, born June 22, 1760, died Windham, October 15, 1826, "in the 67th year of her age", adopted daughter of Nathaniel Wales, Esq. And Mary Wales. After John died Clarissa married (2) 1811, Waterman Clift. John and Clarissa are both buried in Windham Main Cemetery." (Photos of their gravestones may be seen in J.T. Fitch's book)

John was apparently a tavern keeper also and a photo of an entry in the record book that is dated 1798 shows he was in the tavern business in Windham and not in Pennsylvania.

Children born to John and Clarissa in Windham:

JAMES, born April 18, 1781, died Windham, April 19, 1781, Age 1 day

COL. JOHN, JR., born September 14, 1783, died Mansfield, Tolland County, CT, July 8, 1845, married (1) Sally Clift (2) Hulda Bowen Dyer (3) Harriet E. Viall

LUCIUS, born March 11, 1786, married Sybil Abbe

CLARISSA, born May 10, 1788, died in Providence, Rhode Island, December 7, 1873,
married Edward Perkins.

Nothing in the above genealogy matches with the John Fitch who came to Pennsylvania. He apparently ran a tavern in Windham, CT. As his account book is dated 1798 he could not have been in Pennsylvania at that time. Our "John" is in the 1790 census in Pennsylvania. He married Clarissa Wales, had children that are not Gideon and Nathaniel. He died in Windham and his tombstone is there with a death date of 1807. Our "John" was in the 1810 census in Falls, Pennsylvania. This clearly is not the John that came to Pennsylvania.

After many years of researching the Rev. James Fitch vs. Thomas Fitch genealogy problem we have decided that it is time to put it partially to rest. In the past year, with the help of Ann Hssold who is a descendant of Abigail Fitch (sister to Nathaniel) and Jacob Sickler, and who has done a lot of research on this same question we believe we have a genealogy to replace the one in the Fitch Family History Book that was printed in 1972. At that time, with the knowledge we had, it seemed like a very likely genealogy. But even then, in a report that Bill has in his possession now the "unknown researcher" had very grave doubts that it was correct.

When John T. Fitch's books came out we thought it was time to follow this "unknown researcher's" inclination to find another line of descent. As he seemed to think it was most likely Thomas Fitch, that was where we spent the most time. But I have tracked down every John Fitch we could find. Nearly all of them could be eliminated one way or another, leaving us with the Norwalk Fitch family.

I would appreciate your reaction to this genealogy. If you see anything wrong with it in what you have learned on your own, I would want to know. We are learning new things all the time and with that, things change and have to be changed. Ann Hassold has spent many hours in the LDS Library in Salt Lake City, going for a week or two at a time, just to do research on this problem. I feel her research is very professional and she has been good to share it with me. She has also made several trips East to Connecticut to do research, and this summer made a trip to Falls in Pennsylvania. Each new thing we discover seems to tie this Fitch family with the Thomas Fitch family in Norwalk.

We feel it is now time to add this new genealogy to our books, that are in our families, and many that may be in libraries around the country, so that others will not be led astray when they use our book to study their family genealogy. We feel it should be ADDED to the books and not take away what was originally there. Then anyone using the books would know that there could be an error here and not take the Rev. James Fitch genealogy as "gospel". Most genealogy is trial and error. So guess what we would ask is that each of you take this information from the newsletter, go to a local copy place and have a copy made for each book in your possession and slip it in the book for future reference. I believe the two pages of ALTERNATE GENEALOGY from the THOMAS FITCH family, Norwalk, CT., would be the information that should be slipped into the books. The other two on why we need another genealogy is just for your benefit and the books in the libraries need only the two pages underlined above.

Again please let us know how you feel about this. At the reunion there just was not time enough to discuss all of this nor a way to get it to you so you would know what was happening. But we need your input on it also. Actually, Thomas Fitch was a pretty neat guy and was the great grandfather of a Governor, and a well-respected leader in the town of Norwalk.

Subj: **Nathaniel Fitch Play**
Date: 8/27/99 10:38:28 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Cassellcw
To: WFitch5413

Dear Betty,

I watched the videotape this evening. I could understand most of it. Very, very nice. I found it interesting that the apparent purpose of the play was to demonstrate the value of recording family stories, which we have done. It made me feel very good about our efforts to record and share our stories and photos. I'm sure that we have you to thank in sharing our stories with the Hometown Historical Society.

It was a bit odd to see someone playing Sarah, Nathaniel, Jennie, etc. I particularly liked Ida's recitation of "Over the hill to the poorhouse." A very touching part, as I recall that Jennie taught elocution to her younger siblings.

Thank you very much. May I keep the videotape for our family records?

Bill

Hi Bill,

What a great newsletter! Seems you find more interesting things each time you put one together! Thought while I had this in my mind and had a minute, I would reply my thoughts on the articles to you.

Am being run ragged by my mother's entrance into the Lutheran Home here in Fort Wayne and all her financial affairs of which I am the P.O.A. She had been living alone at home, has fallen a few times, and finally on one icy day her phone was off the hook and her door locked and we were 45 minutes away we had the EMS come to get her and she may have had a mini-stroke. At least she had fallen again. She insists there was nothing wrong with her, but anyway after 7 days in the hospital and many tests, they concluded that she should go to the nursing home for therapy, to see if she would be able later on to go back home. Seems she is more and more confused as time goes by and no longer safe at her own home. She has a lovely private room and has a friend that she grew up with just down the hall. They have been eating together and enjoying each other's company so think in the long run, she will adjust and be happy there, although she is not happy with us that we should take her out of her home. But she needs more attention that we can give her. She is 92 at the present time and must use a walker. Long story, but that along with our son John's wife, Amy, who had a colostomy the same day my mom went to the hospital, we have been doing alot. Amy had been suffering with either Khrones or ulcerative colitis for many years and was coming to the end of the string with the medications and all (which seemed to be doing her no good, and much harm), it was the only thing that could be done. They have said it was ulcerative colitis and that she would be "normal" in all other ways and would get her life back and not have to take medications at all. The meds were giving her cataracts and destroying her bones and had added so much weight that she had to get off of them. So we have had a rather bad January and are now doing the "mopping up" on both these happenings. Amy is doing well from her surgery and I can see in her eyes that she is feeling much better and will gain her strength back gradually. With mom, it may be most of the summer before we can really get her settled in. Enough of our sad tales.

I had just a couple things about Paul Keeler, Jrs stint in the Revolutionary War. It is possible that the story about his being in the Sheldon's Light Horse Dragoons came from (or was printed) a couple sources. The first one was in the "History of Ridgefield, CT" written by George L. Rockwell, page 154 and says "The Second Regiment Light Dragoons commanded by Colonel Elisha Sheldon of Salisbury was stationed along the Connecticut border. Paul Keeler, Jr., of Ridgefield was a trumpeter in this regiment." and goes on to say in the footnote following " Paul Keeler, Jr., was born in Ridgefield, April 9, 1756. He married Sarah Burt Cornwell. He bought land and built a house where now stands the Methodist Church. He moved to Falls Village, Pennsylvania, where he died and was buried. He sold his property in Ridgefield to Nathan Dauchy." Rockwell wrote his history about 1927 so was drawing on past records of some sort.

The other place this is mentioned is in the Obituary of Asa Keeler, Paul's oldest son. This was written up in the Wyoming Democart of July 24, 1867.

"Asa Keeler died on the 10th of July, at Keelersburg, aged 87 years and which was announced in last week's paper deserves more than a passing notice that was given him. From a brief memoranda, made by himself, a shor time before his death, we gather the following facts in relation to his early history which we give as nearly in his own words as consistent with our abbreviation of them.

"My father's name was Paul Keeler, who was in the Revolutionary War, a trumpeter in Sheldon's Light Horse. I was born in Ridgefield, Fairfield County, Connecticut, on the first day of October, 1780. In 1796 went to learn the business of saddle and harness making at North Salem, Winchester Co., New York.* In March of 1798 came into Susquehanna, then Luzerne County, on foot, and returned in one month. In April 1802, came to reside in Pennsylvania. " and he goes on with his own story.

*North Salem, Winchester Co., New York, was where his grandfather, Paul Keeler, Sr. had been living and also Joseph Keeler, his great grandfather and much of the family still lived there. It is just across the state line from Ridgefield, probably no more than about 4 miles. At one time it was a part of CT before they squabbled about where the state line should go and finally ended up in New York. It was what had been earlier called Pound Ridge. So they migrated from one place to the other quite easily I would assume.

Then the other reference that I have is from Ann Sickler Hassold who keeps in touch with me and lets me know when she finds anything new about her PA ancestors. She did some checking on Paul's Revolutionary War status and this is what she wrote me about it:

"In printed lists of the soldiers who fought in the Revolution, I could find no mention of Paul Keeler, especially not in the list of men who fought in Sheldon's Light Horse Dragoons. So I looked in the National Archives records and found that Paul had served in Waterbury's Regiment from Connecticut, from January 12 through January 15, 1776, receiving pay for three days of service."

So it is hard to come to any conclusion for sure. I should perhaps write to Ann and ask her if she has a copy of the National Archives record that she found. If so, I am sure she would send it to me, if I ask. She has been a great help.

You would think son Asa would know about his father's regiment since I am sure in those days it was a big thing to have served in the Revolution. But perhaps not, and may have been approaching 87 at that time. He was 87 when he died.

Don't believe there is any doubt that the Fitches in Indiana (and scattered elsewhere) were descended from Paul Keeler, Jr. as it is easy to prove their existance in PA and the family can be traced and followed both directions for several generations. But as to proof of his War record, that may be harder to prove with any certainty, unless the 3 day stint can be proven by records. I will try on that one.

Another question I have is about John Fitch's death in 1815/16 in Ridgefield, CT. It is stated as such in the Family History Book, but so far have not been able to find any proof of that. I think a thorough search of the cemetery records in Ridgefield might be of some value. He would either be found or not. If not, then we would be no further away from the truth than we are now. I would like to talk Warren into going back to CT this coming fall. John has some F flyer hours that he wants to send us somewhere for our 50th wedding anniversary in May, and I told him maybe to the East again in the fall. Too many other things happening in May. Their "Judy" is getting married in May for one thing.

It seems to be family legend that John went back to CT and died there. There seems to be no record or stone in Falls, PA Cemetery to indicate that he and his wife might be buried there, but the farm was always known as the John Fitch farm where the cemetery was, not the Nathaniel Fitch farm and Nathaniel is the oldest Fitch buried there on record. Possible they were buried there and no stone erected or it was lost in time.

Wm Hassold has also found that there is still a John Fitch on the tax rolls in the year 1813 in Falls Township. Then no more. The only other John Fitch that we know about is the son of Gideon and he would not be living in Falls Township, but in Exeter or Northmoreland across the river. So our "John" may have still been there in 1813.

One other thing, about Grace Fitch and being a teacher. Yes, she was, but she was also the GRANDdaughter of Mathias, not his daughter. She was following in the tradition of her mother, Belle Hollopeter Fitch (wife of John) who was a teacher also. I do have a small certificate that I can copy and send to you and maybe a little more about her teaching. But at this time do not have it all togeher. Will see what more I can find out about Grace also. But perhaps Neal Colvin's wife could give you better information on Grace and her teaching.

Well, have made this quite long, but my letters usually turn into books!! Didn't intend for that. Just wanted to let you know we enjoyed the newsletter. Just another thought.....did you think we should not ask folks to correct their books with new copy of the alternate genealogy?? Or do you think it is too early to do that?? Or just not a good idea at all??

Betty

Subj: Newsletter
Date: 02/28/2000 9:43:14 PM Eastern Standard Time
From: Cassellcw
WFitch5413

Dear Betty,

After I mail a large box of newsletters, it's nice to learn that they have left Massachusetts. Of course, the other indicator that I usually get is returned newsletters, when the addresses are out-of-date. Your response is much better.

You certainly have your hands full with your family. I marvel that you have time to write such wonderful letters (which I print and save).

This newsletter was relatively easy, since I just passed along your research, in slightly edited forms. Thank you so much. I have started a file for the next newsletter with your recent e-mail letter.

Regarding your suggestion that copies of the alternate Nathaniel genealogy be placed in the 1972 books: I agree that this is a good idea, and I regret that I didn't include your suggestion in the newsletter. It slipped my mind, as I rushed to get the newsletter out before school vacation was over. I will include such a suggestion in the next newsletter. I think that Sarah's genealogy should also be included as an addition to the 1972 book. Maybe I should suggest that they copy the newsletter for inclusion in the book.

I priced Sarah's genealogy at \$15, which I figured would cover copying and mailing. It's a small price, if someone is interested. I hope that you don't mind that I chose that price. If it is too low, I can make up any difference from the Fitch Fund.

I must prepare lessons for tomorrow, so this is short.

July 7, 2000

Hi Bill,

Hope your summer is going OK. Mine is about as you might expect! Has been a rather bad week, with broken lawn mower/tractor, broken garage door opener, son John taking tests for gallbladder problems or something (no results as yet), granddaughter, Katie, getting sick on her vacation and pretty much spoiling it for her as she had gone to Ohio to stay with her aunt. Well, guess I should erase all that!! Grandson Jared did come over with a big mower and got my yard all shipshape, Katie is home and feeling ever so much better, Sears is coming to fix my mower, garage door still a big question, the weather has been lovely with temps in the low 80's and cool nights, some of the fellows from the church came and put a new roof on for me. That was quite a job! Of course, there is still a big hole in my life without Warren, but am making it.

Saw this week in the paper that a David W. Fitch, 71, of Fort Wayne (or Leo) died. I am sure he is no relation to our Fitch family, but not sure if it is the Charles Fitch family or not. That family does come down from Rev. James Fitch and maintained an Insurance company in Fort Wayne for many years. There are some of those around as one was named Jennifer and was nearly the same age as our John's Jennifer, and sometimes there would be mix-ups with school related items. So we know they are around, but I haven't personally met any of them. This week I also got a letter from another Indiana Fitch family from Indianapolis. He got my name off the internet and sent me his family lineage which is also from Rev. James. His family is in the John T. Fitch books.

Well, the copy that I am sending is the paper that Ann Sickler Hassold found in the National Archives. She didn't know if some of the ladies might be able to use it to join the DAR or whatever, but it is the only actual paper she found on Paul Keeler. It isn't real dark, but my copy isn't either and doesn't say a lot but that he served 3 days in this particular regiment. I will send two copies so you can have one for your files and give the other away if someone needs it.

Well, much to do yet this evening so had better get with it. Hope everything is going well for you and your family, and you have had some time to enjoy life a little. Sometimes it gets just too hectic for our own good!

Betty

The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions. It emphasizes that proper record-keeping is essential for the integrity of the financial system and for the ability to detect and prevent fraud. The document also outlines the responsibilities of individuals involved in the process, including the need for transparency and accountability.

The second part of the document provides a detailed overview of the various methods used to collect and analyze data. It describes the different types of data sources, such as surveys, interviews, and focus groups, and explains how this information is used to identify trends and patterns. The document also discusses the importance of ensuring the reliability and validity of the data collected.

The third part of the document focuses on the analysis and interpretation of the data. It describes the various statistical techniques used to analyze the data, such as regression analysis and correlation analysis, and explains how these results are used to draw conclusions. The document also discusses the importance of considering the limitations of the data and the potential for bias.

The final part of the document provides a summary of the findings and conclusions. It emphasizes the importance of ongoing monitoring and evaluation to ensure that the system remains effective and efficient. The document also discusses the need for continued research and development to improve the system further.

Hi Bill,

I'm not sure if anyone had managed to let you know that Sister Alma Louise had died or not. Phyllis Fitch just now called me. Apparently she died the last of March and was buried on Friday, March 30th. I am not sure the exact date of her death right now but Phyllis will find out. A cousin of Mary Louise's was going to give Phyllis some of the things that were hers, probably paper things about the Fitches, so she will know after she picks those up. This cousin thought that the Fitch family should have them. Not sure what all it might be as I thought she gave you all the important things, but guess we will see. There are apparently no other survivors of that family as Philamena died last year. They may just be personal papers.

We (Phyllis and I) discussed how the representatives of each family might be doing and as far as she knows their family has not done anything about it. And I have not heard from any of the Mathias Fitch family about any new or old information. So not sure just how this is working. Have you heard if other families were having any success with compiling news of their own families?? Phyllis asked if you were going to do another newsletter, and I said that I hadn't heard from you, but I would ask. It might be wise if the families did pick a representative that that person would send out letters to the members of their family.....a questionnaire or something to see if this will work. I understand that you can no longer do it for the whole family and shouldn't have to. Did any of the families tell you who was to be their representatives?? Or was it like the Mathias family, everybody just went home and forgot it!!! Or if they did anything about it, I never heard who it was. I think I may have told you I would do it for that branch of the family if they had not picked anyone else, but unless I let the rest of them know, nothing will be done. But didn't want to just barge in if they had someone else in mind!

Am still working on genealogy when I find the time. Winter started out hard here in December, but the rest of the winter wasn't too bad. I heated with wood all winter and just quit firing the furnace about a week ago. Then we are now having another cold spell and to be below freezing for the next couple of nights and it is windy, so started it up again this morning. Hope your winter has been good and you got all you wanted to accomplished. Probably not, as I guess we never do. I always plan more than I can manage.

I was really surprised that after the last reunion and newsletter, that I did not hear from anyone on the revision of the Fitch family history or the possibility that what we had printed might be wrong. I thought surely someone would either be upset or interested in having it altered or give an alternate genealogy, but not one word from anyone. Is it that we are just too busy??? And no one really cares??? I realize it is not earthshakingly important but supposed someone in the family would have some interest. I did get one request for a DeLong book and so sent that out, but that was it. After doing genealogy for quite a while now I realize how many folks get their own genealogies mixed up when they copied them from faulty facts. I am now in contact with several folks who live in the Falls Twp., Wyoming Co., PA area where Nathaniel and Sarah (parents of our Nathaniel) lived and are buried. Two recently from Gideon Fitch descendants (Gideon being the brother of Nathaniel).

I plan this summer to make a copy of the alternate genealogy from Thomas Fitch and place it in our Fitch Family History book that is in the library in Fort Wayne. So far I had not done it, but want that one to be as correct as possible. Will not take out what is there about Rev. James Fitch, but will just add the alternate so anyone using the book would know there was some doubt. Since no one contacted me, have you heard from anyone who might be upset about the possibility of not being descended from Rev. James???

Well, did not mean to write a book, but wanted to tell you about Sister Alma Louise if you had not heard. It was not in the Fort Wayne paper and think that either Phyllis or I might put it in but want to make sure we have our facts straight before we do.

Let me hear from you.

Betty

A family reunion?

We meet each year, what a great day
Most return but some do not
Each year more slip away.

There'll be another family reunion

~~I'm going to be there~~ In which I'm going to share
And I want to go thru the family role
And find each of the Fitches there.

When the Lord calls us together
for His reunion in the air

We want you all to be ~~there~~ present
Let's not find an empty chair.

What about you? Do you know you'll be there?
Do you know Him? Make sure today!

3 years ago if He had called reunion time
right then

I could not have gone,

I couldn't pass His test

For admission up there He demands

we be filled with His Spirit and righteousness

(2)

But praise His name, His Holy Name

He met me where I was

And said to me now is the day

And not knowing but that it might be
my last chance, I knelt to pray.

~~His~~ ^{His} gift is free but like any gift
We have to receive it

And to receive, we must believe it

He is the Son of God!

I sinned by not believing

and by not receiving - and

That's the sin that locked the door

to keep me out of God's family reunion

What about you? Do you know you'll be there?

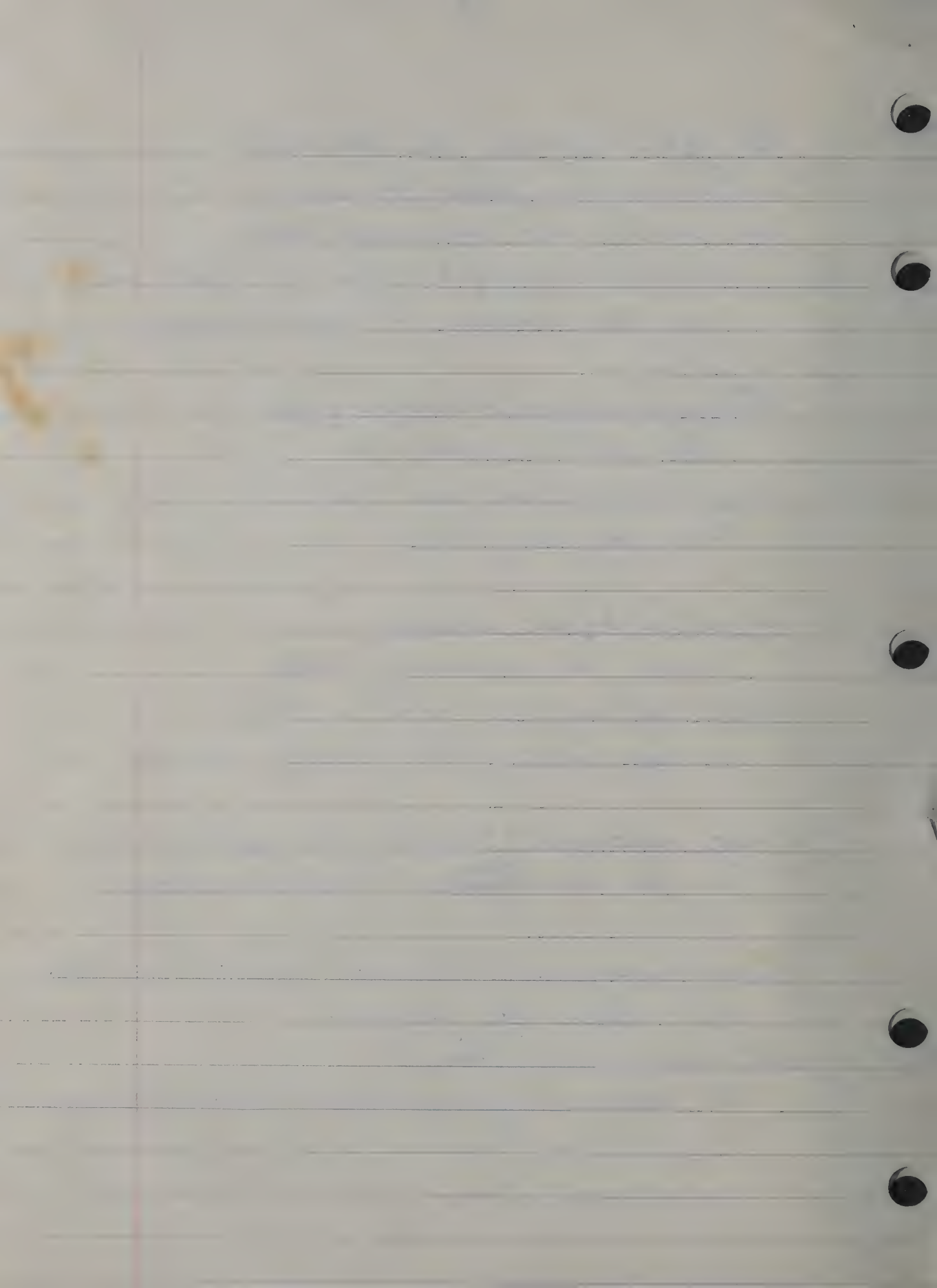
Do you know ^{Him} Jesus? Make sure today!

But Jesus paid for that sin and all the others

2000 years ago, you see -

So when I asked Him to

He blotted it off my record and He set me free



Free to know Him

Free to love Him

Just as He always loved me

My eyes had been too blind to see.

You can know Him you know

He's not that God away off somewhere

Every part of your life He
wants to share

There's no doubt in your heart

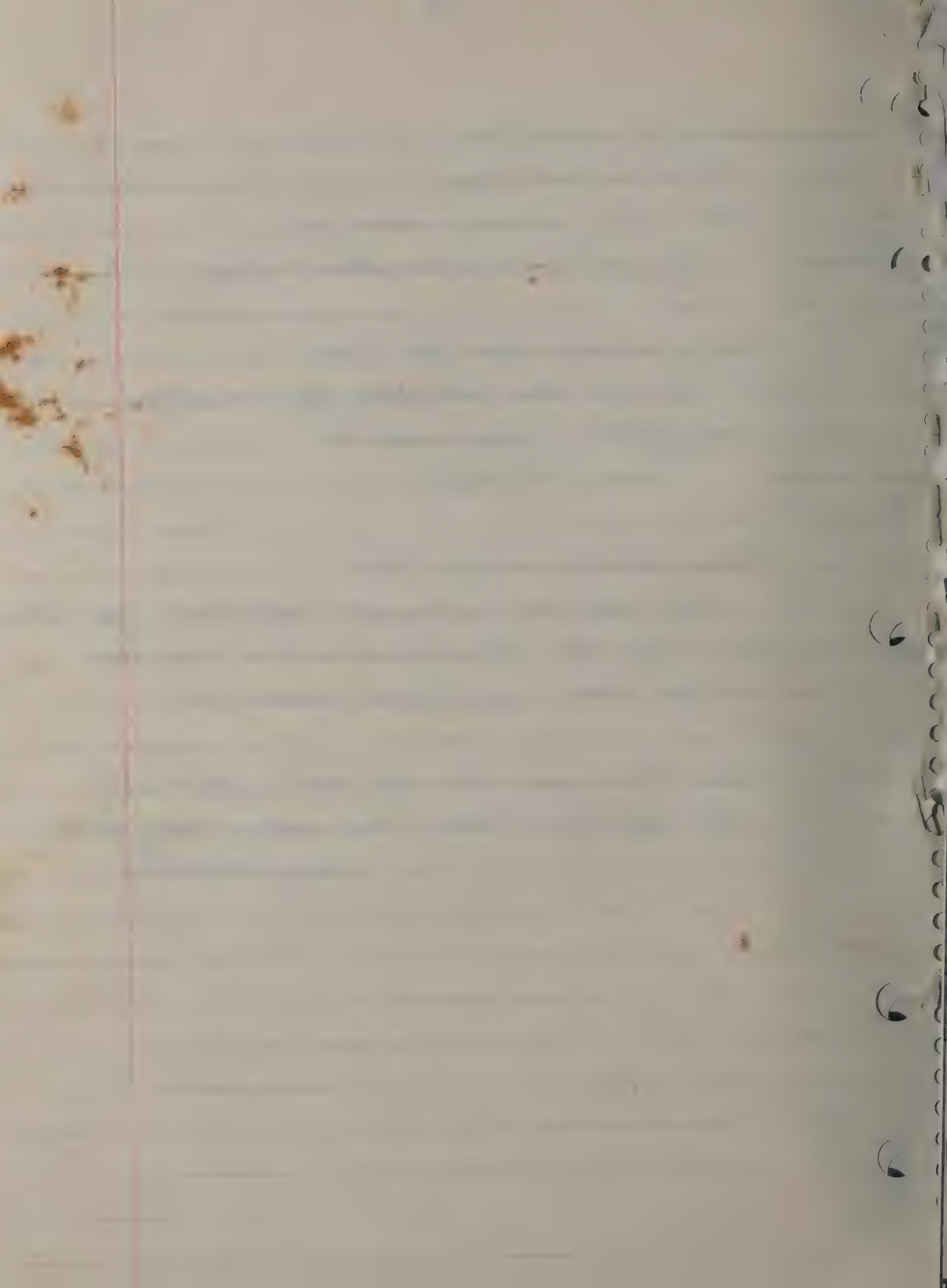
when you're in His hands - you'll know - you'll know.

And when that family reunion time has come

You know - you know you'll go!

What about you? Do you know for sure?

Do you know Him? He's waiting - today is the
day of salvation





1995 Fitch Reunion

VARIOUS Fitches

Sept. 1, 1999

Dear Betty,

Thank you for the Fitch / DeLong information. I appreciate your research efforts.

I have another question to ask you. What can be seen of the Fitch Castle today? My sister will have an opportunity to be in the London vicinity this fall and would love to visit it and take pictures. I am sure she would write something to share in the newsletter as well.

I will be out of town for awhile and would appreciate it if you could send any information you might have directly to her:

Sue Bowling

7529 Bethany Circle NW
N. Canton, OH 44720

Her phone #: 330 966 8914

Her email: SueBowl@aol.com

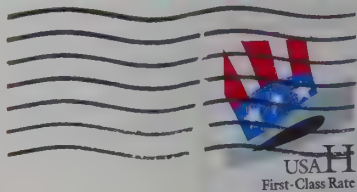
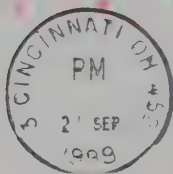
Thanks for any help.

Sincerely,

Anne Robis



Mr. & Mrs. Paul M. Nobis
876 Gray's Lane
New Richmond, OH 45157



Betty L. Fitch
14615 Auburn Rd.
Ft. Wayne, IN 46845

46845+9633





Huntertown Historical Society

Historical Homes
of Perry Township

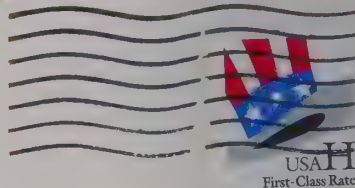
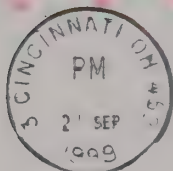
As you live and move about in a community, what you see is the end results of the lives and efforts of many people that lived, loved and died there. It is an expression of their personalities as they built from the times of those early pioneers until today.

You may like what you see or you may not, but whichever the case may be, it is your heritage as they made it and handed it down to you.

Taft Heffelfinger



Mr. & Mrs. Paul M. Nobis
876 Gray's Lane
New Richmond, OH 45157



Betty L. Fitch
14615 Auburn Rd.
Ft. Wayne, IN 46845

46845+9639





William Emrich • 1310 W. Shoaff Rd.
Mr. Emrich was born in Baden, Germany, December 17, 1838, a son of Franz and Elizabeth (Hockenberger) Emrich, who came with their children to America in 1852. There were three children born of this birth, Elizabeth, William, subject of this review, and George. Frugal and industrious, he conserved his financial resources and was able to purchase the fine homestead farm in Perry Township. He achieved success through his association with the agricultural industry. In October, 1907, he retired and moved to Huntertown, where he occupied a home on Hunter Street. William's son Frank, remained on the old homestead farm, and it was later passed on to his son Clifford. The farm is now under the management of Clifford's son Brian Emrich.

William T. Hunter • Hunter St., Huntertown, IN

William T. Hunter, whose name is perpetuated in the one village of Perry Township, was a native of Cumberland, England, who first came to America in 1828, and in 1837 settled in Perry, on the Lima Road. He began clearing a farm at the same time but conducted a tavern at his home. The site of Huntertown was a natural gathering place for settlers' homes, as it was the only spot not covered with forest. The Opening' as it was called, was not made by the settlers, nor for them. However, they gladly availed themselves of it, setting up their temporary cabins and camps there while they cleared more permanent sites for building. B.J. Griswold, Pictorial History Allen County, IN



Coldwater Rd. He also served as township assessor for several years, assessing homes on foot. Frank and John Emrich started the first telephone line called the "Pumpkin Line" through Huntertown. He married Magdelene Kell, and of this union three children were born.

Jacob Hillegass • 1417 W. Gump Rd.

Jacob Hillegass was born on February 7, 1818, in Montgomery County, Ohio. He came to this county on April 14, 1843, with his wife Lucy. For several years he engaged in the tanning business, but he abandoned the tanning business to devote more time to farming. He bought a small tract in section 17 from James Thompson. He paid \$650, for 40 acres. Over the next 25 years, Jacob would buy up other tracts, and by 1870 would have over 400 acres of land. He served as clerk of the township for 6 years, after being elected trustee for 9 years. He was elected county commissioner in October, 1869, and was re-elected 3 years later. His sons, J.D., Jerry, and Isaiah, were graduated at the University of Michigan. The first and the third became lawyers, and the second was for several years superintendent of schools of Allen County.



highest point in Allen County, and is part of the Wabash-Aboite moraine.

Salem Reformed Church • 17819 Auburn Rd.

The Salem Reformed Church is located on a corner where the Chapman road comes down a hill and intersects with the Auburn Rd. Its name acquired from the Dutch settlers who opened the settlement in 1832. A log church was erected on Reinhold land, and the cemetery was on Myers soil. Things became reversed, and the new church was built in 1876 on land from Myers. The Reinhold land became the cemetery. Steps were taken on Sunday, August 30th, 1970 for the complete abandonment and disposal of the building as a church. The cornerstone was removed and given a permanent home in the cemetery across the Auburn Road.



Mr. and Mrs. Versil Hatch are listed as the only surviving members of the original church.

Methodist Parsonage 1888 • 2126 Hunter St.

About 1888 the first Methodist parsonage was purchased, it was known as the Sturgis property, but later became the home of Jennie Baker. From 1834 to 1874, Huntertown was served first by pastors from Ft. Wayne and later by circuit riders of the Little St. Joseph Mission and Allen Circuit to Huntertown Circuit, with the residence established at Huntertown. This home served as the residence of the circuit rider.



the first teacher in Perry Township. From there it went to Burt Parker, his son Paul, and then to Paul's son Osborn. It is now under management of a family member.

Fisher West • 17935 West Rd.

Fisher C. West was born in 1827, at Syracuse, New York, son of Joseph and Joanna (Smith) West. Mr. West left his native state when about 15 years of age, and settled in DeKalb county, where he remained with his parents about one year and began to learn the miller's trade. In 1849 he joined the great tide of emigration to the gold fields of California, where he was successful in mining. Four years later he purchased the farm in Perry Township. He remained in Allen County for about 10 months and began a series of travels, to New York City, to Cape Verde, Africa, to Cape Town, Africa, then to Fort Phillip, Australia; thence to the gold mines of Australia, where he remained for 8 years; then from Melbourne to London, England, later returning home. Johnny Appleseed lived in the West barn for several years, never coming into the home, but traveling as he pleased.



Joseph Warner • 3422 Chapman Rd.

Joseph Warner, one of the early pioneer settlers of Perry Township, was born in Adams County, Penn., September 1, 1796. He remained in Pennsylvania until 1831. In the fall of 1842 he moved to Indiana. He bargained to clear 20 acres for 40 acres of land, and completed the work that winter, and settled the next year on the 40 acres. He served as township treasurer for one term, and as supervisor several years during the time of opening new roads. He opened all the roads in his district. He resided in Perry Township until his death in 1871. He became a prosperous citizen owning 303 acres of valuable land. His son, John A. Warner, owned the home on Chapman road. Ernest Warner, son of Anson, later managed the homestead. It is now owned by Robert Walton, great-grandson of Izaak Walton.



Newman Hatch • 4818 Hatch Rd.

Mr. and Mrs. Jason Hatch, from Pennsylvania, came with their son, Newman Hatch, in 1834. Newman Hatch was married in 1839 to Abigail Parker, daughter of Benjamin Parker. His daughter Ester married Dr. Wheelock, the first doctor in Perry Township. Jason settled on Cedar Creek where he erected a saw mill. Newman was well respected by his fellow-citizens, and was repeatedly called on to fill local offices. Newman Hatch owned a 160 acre tract, a 40 acre tract, and 20 acres east of the Saginaw railroad. Picture is that of the Versil Hatch home, son of Newman. In the Methodist 1896 Willing Workers Cookbook,



for the day and used for voters. This was a big event because meals and food were also served all day

Stoner's Mill (Also known as the Shyrocks Mill)

18319 Coldwater Rd.

Stoner's Mill is no longer in service, but the home, across the road, is still in use today. This mill operated continuously for 76 years (1834-1910), the longest service record among the 35 water-powered mills of Allen County. Blair & Wines erected the mill in 1834, on the line between Sections 3 and 4 of Perry Township, little less than one mile south of the DeKalb County line, on the right (west) bank of Big Cedar, and near the Old Coldwater Road (now U.S. Highway 327). The home has been preserved and is in excellent condition, reminding us of days past. In 1910 the mill was closed, abandoned, and eventually torn down.



return to Indiana, he took contracts on various railroads and at the time of his death was engaged on the Saginaw railroad. His son, Jerome Dorsey Gloyd, born July 12, 1841 was married to Fitelia Fitch, born April 10, 1851. Jerome acquired the property on Old Auburn Rd.

Thomas Vandolah • 4636 Vandolah Rd.

James Vandolah came to Indiana in 1832 looking for a situation for a water-mill. This he found in Perry Township and returned to Ohio. In 1835 he returned long enough to dig a race for the mill. He returned in the fall of 1836 with his family, and settled on the farm. He entered 400 acres of wild land in Eel River Township, 520 in Perry Township, and 160 acres in DeKalb. He was a millwright by trade. He built the Shyrocks mill at Leo, the Dawson mill at Spencerville, the grist mill near Clarksville, his own mill and several others. He married Rebecca Tucker in 1830, and of this union 8 children were born. The home later became the home of his son Thomas. The steeple from the St. Vincents Church is located on the property.



of 184 acres. George and Harriet (Agenbroad) were honored citizens of Allen County until their death, and were influential in community affairs.

James E. Ballou • 15635 Lima Rd.

The James Ballou family came to England in 1066 with the Norman Invasion. They later arrived in America and emigrated to a residence on Old Auburn road. They were a French family. James E. Ballou was born on November 20, 1845, to James Ballou and Clarissa Dunton, daughter of Ephraim and Abigail (Ball) Dunton. James married Mary G. Hatch, born Feb. 2, 1849 to Newman and Abigail Parker Hatch. James E. and his wife Mary built their beautiful home in Huntertown at the corner of Edgerton and Lima Rd. According to the Allen County City Directory of 1880, James was a dealer in groceries, provisions, liquors and cigars. He was also an elected township trustee.



To open up the territory for settlement a road was cut through the woods from Fort Wayne to a town in LaGrange County called Lima. Lima later became Howe, IN. Huntertown became a convenient place to settle, and a spot where a store was needed so supplies could be purchased. The Indians still roamed the woods, but were friendly. Wm. Caswell and Charles Weeks entered the community in 1832 and established residence as the first white men to enter Perry Township, and a community began. The trail became the Lima Turnpike, and was traversed by pioneers ready to begin new lives. Huntertown became known as the "Opening" on English Prairie. Wm. T. Hunter, for whom the town is named, arrived in 1837. The name was given when the town people voted to have it renamed in 1869-70 in honor of Wm. Hunter for his contributions to the community.

The Huntertown Historical Society
was founded in April 1997 by local residents
who were dedicated to preserving
the history of the town.

You are invited to attend our program meetings
where local residents share their heritage stories and pictures.
You do not have to be a member of the Historical Society to attend.
We meet on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.
Program begins at 7:30 p.m.

If you would like more information,
please contact us at the following address:

Huntertown Historical Society
Box 662, Huntertown, IN 46748

Prepared by: Shirley Underwood, Executive Director 1-260-637-3530
www.huntertownhistoricalsoc.org
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**Nathaniel Fitch****Home located on the hill behind Bi-Centennial Woods**

Nathaniel Fitch was born on July 9, 1806. In 1832 he settled in Allen County. He was a blacksmith, gunsmith, and locksmith. This he followed in Pennsylvania and continued the work after arriving here. He made all the iron for the canal locks from the Wabash to Fort Wayne. He married Sarah DeLong, daughter of George and Elizabeth DeLong of Auburn on June 4, 1840. He came to own 2,300 acres of land, and raised a large family of 15 children. The home is in danger and in need of repairs.

Jacob Hursh • Hursh Rd.

The land was purchased from the government by John Delafield of New York City in 1837. On Feb. 11, 1840 they sold it to George W. Hatch and Mary Ann Hatch from New York City and state. It was sold by the Hatches in 1849 to Andrew Crawford of Ashland, Ohio and his wife Rachel. Then in 1849 to Jacob Hursh of Allen County, IN. He held the property until his death when it went to his heirs. Jacob died in 1879. Each of the heirs sold it to John Wesley Hursh, and when he died it was sold to George and Audrey (Fitch) Hursh in 1937. John and Audrey sold the land to Gustave Timm and in 1944 the land was sold to Wm. Martin, Jr. and his wife, Olive Martin. It was recently sold in the spring of 2007 at auction. Many of the fine teachers of Perry Township were provided by the Hursh family.

**Oscar Bobay • 14514 Auburn Rd.**

The Oscar Bobay home on Auburn road is known as a Sears Roebuck Home. It was purchased through a Sears catalog. The 1920s were the peak years for mail order homes. The homes could be purchased from 1908-1940. The kit included 750 lbs. of nails, 10 lbs. of wood putty, 27 gallons of paint and varnish, 460 pounds of window weights, 72 coat hooks, 27 windows, 25 doors, one door-bell, and a 75 page instruction book. It had about 30,000 pieces to put together. On the property you will find the original Hursh School built in the 1880s-90s. It was moved to this location in the 1940s and used as a farm building. It now houses crafts for purchase.

**Charles F. Bleke • 14034 Lima Rd.**

One of the notable farms of Perry Township is that of Charles F. Bleke on Lima Rd. In the Helms 1880 History of Allen County it is noted that the farm was settled in 1846, and a picture is drawn by a local artist of the residence. Charles Bleke and his wife Caroline Laura Geller, bought 157 acres of land upon which they lived until their death. A 1907 map of Perry Township shows these owners: Charles F. Bleke 157 acres, Wm. C. Bleke 40 acres, H. Bleke 167 acres, and Wm. C. Bleke owned another 146 acres.

**Solomon Simon • 1922 Simon Rd.**

Solomon Simon came to Perry Township when only 12, there to live and die. He was a pioneer by heredity. The year of 1836 saw the family settled in Perry Township. Solomon married in 1852 to Mary Rhodes, the daughter of DeKalb County settlers. They were blessed with 8 children. Solomon was a prosperous farmer having a handsome property of 225 acres in Perry Township and 120 acres in DeKalb, also a half interest in 4 lots in LaOtto. His fortune being a trade in coon skins and other



furs of which the forests were full. There were three log cabins on the property before the home was built in 1868. The barn was built in 1846, 6 years after the family settled there. The wooden pegs that hold the beams together were fire hardened and had to be purchased. The man sent to buy the pegs was robbed and it took another year to save enough money for them. The barn was used for Presbyterian church meetings for several years.

Most listed buildings are privately owned.

Please respect the occupants privacy by viewing from the street.

HHS Mission Statement

Our mission is to foster appreciation of the Huntertown area's unique history, to carry out historical research, preservation and education; and to provide the public with meaningful heritage experiences.

To open up the territory for settlement a road was cut through the woods from Fort Wayne to a town in LaGrange County called Lima. Lima later became Howe, IN. Huntertown became a convenient place to settle, and a spot where a store was needed so supplies could be purchased. The Indians still roamed the woods, but were friendly. Wm. Caswell and Charles Weeks entered the community in 1832 and established residence as the first white men to enter Perry Township, and a community began. The trail became the Lima Turnpike, and was traversed by pioneers ready to begin new lives. Huntertown became known as the "Opening" on English Prairie. Wm. T. Hunter, for whom the town is named, arrived in 1837. The name was given when the town people voted to have it renamed in 1869-70 in honor of Wm. Hunter for his contributions to the community.

The Huntertown Historical Society was founded in April 1997 by local residents who were dedicated to preserving the history of the town.

You are invited to attend our program meetings where local residents share their heritage stories and pictures. You do not have to be a member of the Historical Society to attend. We meet on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Program begins at 7:30 p.m.

If you would like more information, please contact us at the following address:
Huntertown Historical Society
Box 662, Huntertown, IN 46748

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Huntertown Historical Society

Historical Homes of Perry Township

As you live and move about in a community, what you see is the end results of the lives and efforts of many people that lived, loved and died there. It is an expression of their personalities as they built from the times of those early pioneers until today. You may like what you see or you may not, but whichever the case may be, it is your heritage as they made it and handed it down to you.

Taft Heffelfinger

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